

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 74-16

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1107, "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 85300 AND 85320 OF, AND TO ADD SECTIONS 89519.5 AND 91004.5 TO, THE GOVERNMENT CODE, RELATING TO THE POLITICAL REFORM ACT OF 1974"

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln declared that the United States of America has a system of "government of the people, by the people, for the people;" and

WHEREAS, generations of Americans have fought to achieve universal suffrage, so that all citizens are equally guaranteed the right to participate in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of running for public office is a barrier that can inhibit qualified citizens from becoming candidates; and

WHEREAS, the current campaign finance system burdens candidates with the need to raise large sums of money and thus decreases time available to carry out their public responsibilities and talk to their constituents; and

WHEREAS, the increasing costs of political campaigns can force candidates to rely on funding from special interest groups, which can undermine the public's trust in the integrity of the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court stated in *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), that citizen-funded election programs "facilitate and enlarge public discussion and participation in the electoral process, goals vital to a self-governing people," and can be a "a means of eliminating the improper influence of large private contributions," and

WHEREAS, the California Supreme Court commented in *Johnson v. Bradley*, 4 Cal. 4th 389 (1992), that "it seems obvious that public money reduces rather than increases the fund raising pressures on public office seekers and thereby reduces the undue influence of special interest groups;" and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1107 would restore local control by permitting California and local governments to enact voluntary citizen-funded election programs, if they choose to; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond offers public matching funds to qualified candidates running for mayoral and council offices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond strongly believes that local governments should have options to encourage participation in our democracy and ensure the accountability of our elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Richmond supports SB 1107; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Governor, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León, Assembly Elections Committee Chair Shirley Weber, Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Lorena Gonzalez, Senate Elections Committee Chair Ben Allen, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Ricardo Lara, and to our area's members of the California Legislature.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held July 19, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, McLaughlin, Myrick, Pimplé,
Vice Mayor Martinez, and Mayor Butt.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 74-16**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on July 19, 2016.

Certified as a True Copy

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

BY *Debra Lundy*
ASSISTANT