

Brennan Center for Justice, Center for Working Families, Citizen Action of New York, Common Cause, Democracy Matters, 32 BJ, 1199 SEIU  
NYSUT, NYPIRG, ACT NOW, Albany Presbytery, Asociacion de Mujeres Progresistas, Brooklyn Movement Center, Brooklyn MoveOn Council  
BWICA Educational Fund Inc., Capital Area Council of Churches, Capital Region of NY MoveOn, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, Center for Health  
Environment & Justice, Center for Independence of the Disabled of New York, Citizens Union, Community Voices Heard  
Community Free Democrats, CWA 1104, CWA District 1, Democracy for New York City, Democrat.com, Drum Major Institute, Fingerlakes MoveOn  
Foundation of Integrative AIDS Research, FUREE, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition, Hunger Action Network of NY State  
Interfaith Impact of New York State, Jobs with Justice LI, Jobs with Justice NY, Long Island Coalition for a National Healthplan  
Long Island Progressive Coalition, Long Island WINS, Make the Road NY, Manhattan Young Democrats, Metro Justice of Rochester  
Metro New York Healthcare for All, Metropolitan Russian American Parent Association, Mount Vernon United Tenants  
MoveOn Manhattan Council, NASW-NYS, New Roosevelt Initiative, New York State Nurses Association, NY StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.  
Partnership for Public Good, Peace Action of Central New York, People United for Sustainable Housing, Prisoners are People Too  
Public Accountability Initiative, Queens County Young Democrats, Schenectady Community Action, Professional Staff Congress – CUNY, Program  
Social Justice Council of First Unitarian Church of Rochester, Syracuse Peace Council, Syracuse United Neighbors  
Tenants Political Action Committee, UFCW, Urban Justice Center, Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders, WESPAC Foundation  
West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Western New York Peace Center

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## PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS IS A KEY GOVERNMENT REFORM

December 23, 2010

Dear Governor-Elect Cuomo,

**We write to strongly encourage your leadership in proposing and enacting a voluntary system of public campaign finance early in the 2011 legislative session.**

Our groups strongly support your bold and common sense proposal to enact public campaign finance outlined in your *Clean Up Albany* policy book and hope to hear it discussed in your first State of the State address. We are ready and energized to work with you to pass a public financing of campaigns option in 2011. As good government, civil rights, environmental, labor, community, health care, social justice, and grassroots advocacy organizations, we are united in our desire for real reform. We fully support passage of a system that ends candidates' dependence on large, private campaign donations as a means to win legislative and statewide office in New York, and instead, makes elected officials accountable to voters by allowing candidates to qualify for public funds to run their campaigns.

It will take someone in your position, with your vision for a stronger, more democratic and transparent New York to lead the effort to truly clean up state government and change the culture in Albany. Like you, we all agree that in order to truly give Albany a "clean bill of health," a system of public campaign finance along with other campaign finance reforms including lower contribution limits, closing loopholes, and strong but fair enforcement, must be enacted.

For decades, our organizations have confronted a state government fraught with corruption as we advocated for changes in Albany. We know that the public interest would be better served if our elected officials were able to run for office using a system of public campaign finance, like New York City's. Such a system promotes transparency and accountability to the public. It restores the public's trust in government and encourages more participation in the electoral and legislative process. It encourages genuine debate around issues. More participation, competition and equal opportunity in our elections system are beneficial to every New Yorker.

You have an opportunity to create a more functional and productive state government and promote New York State as a national leader in government reform. Enacting a system of public financing of elections is critical to meeting these goals.

Sincerely,

Brennan Center for Justice  
Michael Waldman, Executive Director

Center for Working Families  
Dave Palmer, Executive Director

Citizen Action of New York  
Karen Scharff, Executive Director

Common Cause  
Susan Lerner, Executive Director

Democracy Matters  
Joan Mandle, Executive Director

NYPIRG  
Blair Horner, Legislative Director

32 BJ  
Hector Figueroa, Secretary Treasurer

NYSUT  
Steve Allinger, Legislative Director

1199 SEIU  
Kevin Finnegan, Political Director

ACT NOW Heather Roberson, Director	CWA 1104 George Bloom, President	Metro Justice of Rochester Jesse Lenney, President, Executive Committee	Professional Staff Congress – CUNY Barbara Boen, President
Albany Presbytery Cass L. Shaw, General Presbyter	CWA District 1 Chris Shelton, Vice-President	Metro New York Healthcare for All Marc Hannay, Director	Public Accountability Initiative Kevin Connor, Co-Director
Asociacion de Mujeres Progresistas Carmen Acosta, Secretary	Democracy for New York City Tracey Denton, Director	Metropolitan Russian American Parent Association Valdimir Epshteyn, Director	Queens County Young Democrats Costa Constantinides, President
Brooklyn Movement Center Mark Winston Griffith, Executive Director	Democrat.com Bob Fertik, President	Mount Vernon United Tenants Dennis Hanratty, Executive Director	Schenectady Community Action Program Deb Schimpf, Executive Director
Brooklyn MoveOn Council Bernadette Walker, Regional Coordinator	Fingerlakes MoveOn Pam Gueldner, Council Coordinator	MoveOn Manhattan Council Steve Mueller, Council Coordinator	Social Justice Council of First Unitarian Church of Rochester John Keevert, Co-Chair
BWICA Educational Fund Inc. Maria Alvarez, Executive Director	Foundation of Integrative AIDS Research George M. Carter, Director	NASW-NYS Karin Moran, Director of Policy	Syracuse Peace Council Jessica Maxwell, Staff Organizer
Capital Area Council of Churches Paul Rees-Rohrbacher President, Board of Directors	FUREE Valery Jean, Executive Director	New Roosevelt Initiative Bill Samuels, Chairman	Syracuse United Neighbors Richard Puchalski, Director
Capital Region of NY MoveOn Joe Seeman, Team Coordinator	Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition Rabbi Feinberg, Executive Director	New York State Nurses Association Shaun Flynn, Director, Governmental Affairs	Tenants Political Action Committee Michael McKee, Treasurer
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy Bruce Ferguson, Director	Hunger Action Network of NY State Mark Dunlea, Director	New York City Council Progressive Caucus Brad Lander, Mellisa Mark-Vivierto, Co-Chairs	UAW Region 9A, Julie Kushner, Director
Center for Health, Environment & Justice Lois Gibbs, Executive Director	Interfaith Impact of New York State Robb Smith, Executive Director	NY StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc. Maria Alvarez, Executive Director	UFCW Local 1500 Pat Purcell, Assistant to the President
Center for Independence of the Disabled of New York Susan Dooha, Executive Director	Jobs with Justice LI Charlene Obenhauer, Director	Partnership for Public Good Sam Magavern, Co-Director	Urban Justice Center Doug Lasdon, Executive Director
Citizens Union Dick Dadey, Executive Director	Jobs with Justice NY Matt Ryan, Director	Peace Action of Central New York Gerald R Lotierzo, Chair	Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders Sean Barry, Executive Director
Coalition for Economic Justice Allison Duwe, Executive Director	Long Island Coalition for a National Healthplan Ester Confino, Secretary	People United for Sustainable Housing Eric Walker, Director of Organizing	WESPAC Foundation Nada Khader, Executive Director
Community Voices Heard Sondra Youdelman, Executive Director	Long Island Progressive Coalition Lisa Tyson, Director	Picture the Homeless Lynn Lewis, Executive Director	West Side Campaign Against Hunger Doreen Wohl, Executive Director
Community Free Democrats Vinnie Alfonso, President	Long Island WINS Maryann Slutsky, Director	Prisoners are People Too Karima Amin, Director	Western New York Peace Center James Andersen, Chair
	Manhattan Young Democrats Emmy Suzuki Harris, Vice President		