

“The Lincoln Act”

***An Act to support a government of the people,
by the people, and for the people of Illinois***

House Sponsor: Representative Will Burns

Senate Sponsor: Senator Jacqueline Collins

Today’s crisis in Illinois has paralyzed the peoples’ trust and government’s ability to work on behalf of the public interest. In order to democratize our politics and reduce the influence of big money Illinois requires sweeping reforms. Clean elections are an approach which can effectively repair faith in government and empower people. Voters given the choice choose clean election candidates. 81% of the 2009 General Assembly in Connecticut will be cleanly elected, following the state’s first general election utilizing the program which was set in place in response to the public’s demand for a responsive government. By adopting a clean election model in Illinois, candidates may better harness the power of small political donors, making a contribution from a factory worker or a waitress just as valuable as one from a lobbyist or corporate CEO.

Become a “Clean Election Candidate” in Illinois ***A model proposal for Campaign Finance Reform***

Qualifying Fundraising Period: In order to qualify as an official “clean elections candidate”, the candidate will need to raise a threshold number of small dollar contributions predominantly from residents of Illinois. The threshold number will vary by the office sought i.e.: statewide, state senate or state house. Once qualified, clean election candidates would then receive a competitive and significant lump sum grant from the Clean Elections Program.

Matching Fundraising Period: After officially becoming a “clean election candidate” through successful completion of the qualifying period, the clean candidate would then be able to receive matching clean election funds based on a 3:1 match. To qualify for the match the clean candidate would need to continue to raise small dollar contributions predominantly from Illinois residents. Clean election candidates could receive up to two times the initial lump sum grant. The lump sum grant and matching funds periods will apply to both the primary and general elections.

Further Fundraising Period: Once the clean election candidate achieves the limit of the public matching period for receiving clean funds, then the clean election candidate would be able to continue raising small dollar contributions predominantly from Illinois residents.

*Candidates who do not voluntarily elect to be a “clean elections candidate” would be required to fund their campaigns using a system of established contribution limits.