

Gimme Five!



OVEC has been organizing and leading West Virginia Citizens for Clean Elections since its inception nearly ten years ago. Since 2003, we have been fighting hard to get public financing legislation passed by the WV Legislature. With your help we will be right there in the trenches at the 2009 Legislative Session. Unfortunately, because of current economic uncertainties, our funding for this project has fallen significantly short of our needs.

We need your help to continue our work. **So we are asking each of you to contribute just five dollars to this Gimme Five! Campaign to help us keep our efforts going.**

WHY \$5?

A five dollar contribution is in some ways symbolic; but it also a much needed gift that directly connects to the proposed Clean Elections bill. Here's why:

Five dollars per household would cover the cost of a public campaign financing program for members of the West Virginia House and Senate. Under our current system, candidates for public office must either have personal wealth or access to contributions from wealthy special interests. And those special interest groups expect something in return!

If we want public policy that benefits all of us, we must take control of the way political campaigns are paid for. That's been the outcome for states like Maine and Arizona where Clean Elections is law. When the public pays for campaigns, our legislators are accountable only to us – the voters!

Under the voluntary, Clean Elections system, qualified candidates can choose public financing and not rely on any outside contributions. To qualify, prospective candidates must collect many **five dollar** contributions from voters in their district. Once they are certified by the Secretary of State's office, they are eligible to receive a modest amount of funding for their campaigns. Candidates can spend time talking to their constituents and hearing what local people want instead of making fundraising phone calls.

Our proposal has traction, so we need your help more than ever! We will continue to fight with the same energy and dedication.

Would you invest **five dollars** to make your state legislators accountable to you? Hey, OVEC supporter! Gimme Five!—an investment in democracy and West Virginia's future!

Please send your contribution to OVEC at P.O. Box 6753, Huntington, WV 25773-6753. Thank you so much for **giving us five!**