Money in Politics Study: Recommendations and Consensus Questions

Campaign Contribution Limits:

Recommendations: Virginia should limit campaign contributions, determined by the type of donor. Utilities should be banned from contributing to campaigns.

Questions:

1. Should VA pass legislation to ban utilities from contributing to campaigns?
_____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

2. Should Virginia pass legislation to limit HOW MUCH can be contributed?
_____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

3. Should Virginia pass legislation to limit contribution by the type of donor?
_____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

Campaign Expenditure Limits:

Recommendations: The General Assembly should pass legislation on the following: ban personal use of campaign funds; restrict use of funds for campaign-related expenses, while ensuring that payments for dependent care that arise as a direct result of campaigning are allowed; allow use of campaign funds to reimburse candidates for wages lost as a direct results of campaigning; and merge the current 'base' salaries of legislators with the current 'office expense' allowance, while adding a separate, vouchered expense allowance for payments of legislative office expenses.

Questions:

4. Virginia currently has no laws prohibiting candidates (or officeholders who intend to run again for re-election) from using campaign funds to pay personal expenses. Should the General Assembly pass legislation that would ban personal use of campaign funds? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

5. Virginia currently has no specific laws that address how candidates (or officeholders who intend to run again for re-election) are allowed to use money that has been contributed to their campaigns. If the General Assembly were to pass legislation that provides a list of acceptable uses of campaign funds, would you

favor restricting these to campaign-related expenses, as the states of Washington and Connecticut have done? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

6. Should a list of acceptable uses of campaign funds include provisions that ensure that payments for childcare/dependent care that arise as a direct result of campaigning are allowed? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

7. Should Virginia follow Washington state and federal law and allow candidates to use campaign funds to reimburse themselves for wages lost as a direct result of campaigning? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

8. Should the General Assembly follow the recommendations of the McAuliffe Ethics Committee, and merge the current 'base' salaries of legislators with the current 'office expense' allowance, while adding a separate, vouchered expense allowance for payments of legislative office expenses? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

Oversight and Enforcement:

Recommendations: The Virginia General Assembly should adopt legislation regarding campaign finance activity in Virginia: increased oversight and enforcement; and establishment of an independent state agency for the purpose of increased oversight and enforcement.

Questions:

9. Should Virginia pass legislation to increase oversight and enforcement of campaign finance activity in Virginia? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

10. Should Virginia pass legislation to create an independent state agency for the purpose of increased oversight and enforcement of campaign finance activity in Virginia? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

Dark Money:

Recommendations: Virginia should enact laws to address the following issues: regulate and limit all dark money donations and expenditures by imposing a transparency requirement; and protecting the public by preventing a foreign government from interfering with our state elections, including requiring all ad sponsors to disclose their donors.

Questions:

11. Should Virginia enact laws to require transparency and full disclosure of donations by individuals, organizations, PACs and Super PACs, therefore eliminating dark money? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

12. Should Virginia pass legislation to curb further the coordination of activities between candidates for election and nonprofit organizations? _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments:

13. Should Virginia pass legislation to protect the public by preventing a foreign government from interfering with our state elections, including requiring all ad sponsors to disclose their donors? This legislation would allow the public to better analyze the ad content with the knowledge of its sponsors. _____Yes _____No _____No Consensus. Comments: