

# FAIR ELECTIONS NOW

PEOPLE.ACTION.DEMOCRACY.  
www.FairElectionsNow.org

*"If we're serious about change, we need to have a real discussion about public financing for Congressional elections.*

*Because even if we can stop lobbyists from buying us lunch or taking us on junkets, they'll still be able to attend our fundraisers—and that's access the average American doesn't have."*



Pres. Barack Obama

August 2, 2007

## African Americans for FAIR ELECTIONS

NAACP

Rep. George Butterfield (D-NC)  
Rep. William Clay (D-MO)  
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)  
Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)  
Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD)  
Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)  
Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)  
Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)  
Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)  
Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH)  
Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)  
Rep. Jesse Jackson (D-IL)  
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)  
Rep. Henry Johnson (D-GA)  
Rep. Eddie Johnson (D-TX)  
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)  
Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)  
Rep. Kendrick (D-FL)  
Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)  
Del. Eleanor Norton (D-DC)  
Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)  
Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY)  
Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA)  
Rep. Benny Thompson (D-MS)  
Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)  
Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA)  
Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC)

## FAIR ELECTIONS NOW ACT, H.R. 1826

The Fair Elections Now Act would allow candidates for Congress to run for office on small donations and public funds. The Fair Elections system would get elected officials out of the fundraising race and let them do the job we elect them to do.

### How it works:

- ✓ Candidates would swear off corporate and union contributions and accept only small, individual, in-state donations --\$100 or less.
- ✓ To qualify, House candidates must collect 1,500 in-state contributions, \$100 or less, for a total of at least \$50,000.
- ✓ Participating House candidates would receive initial Fair Elections funding estimated at \$900,000:
  - ✓ 40% (\$360,000) for the primary, and if they win...
  - ✓ 60% (\$540,000) for the general
- ✓ Participating House candidates would receive additional funds—\$4 for each \$1 raised in small-dollar (\$100 or less), in-state donations. This creates an incentive for candidates to connect with their constituents, and prepares for opponent and independent expenditures.
- ✓ NO TAXPAYER FUNDS will be used. The Fair Election Fund would come from a fee on the largest government contracts. Estimated costs: \$700 million/year.