



CLEAN
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ELECTIONS

December 8, 2008

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Dear Bob:

Thank you for taking time yesterday to sit down with us and talk about campaign reform priorities for President-elect Barack Obama and the incoming administration. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive 2009.

As we discussed, President-elect Obama has long supported and campaigned on policies to reduce the power of big money in politics and was a co-sponsor of congressional Fair Elections and presidential public financing legislation. With congressional leaders Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Cong. John Larson (D-CT) as the lead sponsors of bipartisan Fair Elections bills – and working with strengthened majorities – reformers are working with the best conditions to pass public financing since Watergate.

The reform community is united behind these two bills, and Public Campaign and other allies are thinking expansively about a broad coalition of organizations necessary to pass such landmark legislation. Beyond the core reform groups, an impressive roster of the nation's leading issue and constituency organizations and labor unions representing over 60 million Americans, have joined our efforts for Fair Elections. These allied organizations include civil rights groups, consumer advocates, environmental organizations, and public and private sector labor unions. This is the type of effort we have helped to build in each of our state victories. Many of these organizations are attracted to participatory approaches to on this issue rather than the largely discredited regulatory approach of yesterday.

Deep public discontent with status quo policies led to a historic election and voters responded by giving the new President and Congress a mandate for change. This moment presents the best in a generation (or longer) to fully question and address who has power in Washington, whose voices get heard in the halls of Congress, and how the policy-making process is compromised by a campaign finance system that relies heavily on large donations.

As is often the case, the voters' answers to these questions are clear. Recent polling shows that voters believe campaign contributions will prevent Congressional action for major change on economic, health care, and energy policies. At the same time, the voters give overwhelming support – 69-13 percent – to comprehensive public financing of all federal





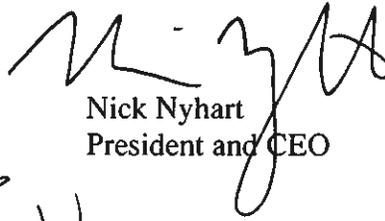
elections. Few policies will change Washington as much as overhauling the nation's campaign finance laws.

In short, we believe that the next Administration and Congress have an opportunity of historic proportions to pass reform that would fundamentally restructure who has political power in America.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions on Fair Elections, fixing the presidential public financing system, or our 2009 plans. If you are interested, working with other groups like Common Cause, Public Campaign would be happy to convene a larger meeting of the reform groups to discuss our agenda for next year with you and other members of the transition team or the next administration.

Thanks again for meeting with us, and from all of us at Public Campaign, we wish you a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Nick Nyhart
President and CEO

Thanks, Bob
-NN