



December 20, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

On December 7, 2023, the New York State Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) approved a budget request of \$39.5 million to fund the Public Campaign Finance Program in FY 2024-2025. The program is the nation's most powerful response to a political process dominated by mega-donors and a vital tool for everyday New Yorkers to be better heard in our elections. More resources are necessary to ensure that the program lives up to this promise. That is why we are calling on you to provide \$59.5 million for the program in your executive budget.

The PCFB's request is a start, but it does not sufficiently account for the Program's remarkable growth. Enrollment in the Public Campaign Finance Program has grown by more than half in just the last two months since the PCFB calculated its budget request. To date, more than 160 candidates have already enrolled in the program, and we anticipate more to join before the February 26, 2024 deadline. The PCFB's commissioners themselves acknowledged the growing enrollment in the program and the potential need for additional funding when they voted on the budget. Providing a modest increase over the PCFB's request in your executive budget will help ensure that participating campaigns can count on the program's ability to provide necessary resources to candidates.

Increasing the PCFB's budget to \$59.5 million would serve this goal. It would ensure \$45 million is available for matching funds and \$14.5 million for administrative support that will enable the PCFB to maintain the staffing and technical infrastructure necessary to run a reliable, publicly accountable program.

This funding, combined with reappropriations from last year's budget, will put the program on strong footing for its historic first run. It will deliver on Albany's promise to boost the voices of non-wealthy constituents in New York's political process. And, it will give candidates and voters confidence in the program and the reassurance that it's a viable option for financing campaigns.

We are grateful for your continued support of this vital program. Its success is important not only for the people of New York, but for all Americans who seek hope for our democracy. Your support alongside Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie will uplift the

voices of ordinary New Yorkers and help ensure, as the law itself promises, “a government that is accountable to all of the voters of the state regardless of wealth or position.”

Sincerely,

Adirondacks Indivisible  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Alliance of Families for Justice  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
Brooklyn Resisters  
Brooklyn Voters Alliance  
CCoHOPE INDIVISIBLE  
Citizen Action of NY  
Citizens Response Network of Wayne County  
Citizens Union  
Common Cause New York  
Declaration for American Democracy Coalition  
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance  
East End Action Network  
Empire State Indivisible  
Indivisible Brooklyn  
Indivisible Mohawk Valley  
Indivisible New Rochelle  
Indivisible Rochester  
Indivisible Scarsdale  
Indivisible Westchester  
Inwood Indivisible  
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS  
League of Women Voters of New York State  
LINC - Long Island Network for Change  
Long Island Activists  
Long Island Progressive Coalition  
Make The Road New York  
Met Council on Housing  
Metro New York Health Care for All  
New York Progressive Action Network  
New York Working Families Party  
NYCC  
NYDLC Legislative Affairs Committee  
PEER/NYPAN Suffolk County  
Progressive Schenectady  
Public Citizen  
Reinvent Albany  
SMART Elections  
Stand Up America  
Suffolk Progressives

VOCAL-NY  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.  
Westchester for Change