



M. Jodi Rell

GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

December 10, 2009

Dear Legislator:

Campaign finance reform is one of the most important pieces of public policy that we, as elected officials, have ever created. Our Citizens' Election Program is a model of integrity for the nation. The public campaign fund provides a broader doorway to opportunity for anyone aspiring to public service and removes the corrupt influence of special interests from elections.

However, as we all know, because of a federal court ruling, this landmark program is in jeopardy. The state has appealed the decision and will vigorously defend the program, but there is no guarantee we will prevail in our appeal. Therefore, unless we act swiftly to address the court's concerns we risk losing the program altogether.

Fortunately, we do have chance to remedy this issue next week when you return to the Capitol for the December 15 Special Session. It would be tragic to ignore this important opportunity and leave the fate and integrity of Connecticut's campaign finance law to the interpretation of the federal court. Many candidates have already begun raising money under this system and could be left in legal limbo – quite unfairly – if we wait for all the legal options to be exhausted.

During the Special Session, I am asking you to consider legislation that I have drafted that amends the campaign law to comply with the federal court's ruling. My proposals would:

- Eliminate additional qualifying requirements for minor-party and petitioning candidates;
- Provide grants in the same amounts to all eligible candidates;
- Reduce the size of the grants;
- Delay increase in grant amounts until 2014.

For a decade, I sat where you do today as a legislator and fully understand the honor and privilege given to us by our neighbors, by our community – by those citizens who have sent us to Hartford on their behalf. It is a laudable pursuit to represent and work for the good people of Connecticut. This unprecedented reform will ensure that those with the desire and drive to make a difference in public service will fairly and forever have that opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor