



## Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform Executive Summary

- **Creating a Model**
    - Ulster County has been a model for groundbreaking solutions to problems such as Veteran homelessness, addressing generational poverty through increased access to higher education, cutting edge environmental stewardship and many others.
    - There has been no comprehensive campaign finance reform outside New York City.
    - Model campaign finance reform must address contribution limits, provide enhanced disclosure, establish public financing to increase access and provide an independent oversight structure.
    - True campaign finance reform cannot be narrow in scope and political in nature.
  
  - **Contribution Limits**
    - General Contributions:
      - County-wide elections - \$5,000 per donor
      - Members of the County Legislature - \$500 per donor
    - Contributions from those doing business with the County (limits consistent with those set by Orange County and Rockland County "Pay to Play" local laws):
      - County-wide elections - \$1,000
      - Members of the County Legislature - \$250
  
  - **Enhanced Disclosure Requirements**
    - Crucial for getting "dark" money out of politics
    - Candidates must report all political committees
    - Candidates and authorized committees must report all contributions.
  
  - **Matching Public Financing Program and Fiscal Responsibility**
    - Eligible Candidates can get \$1 for each \$1 of a matchable contribution, up to \$100 per contributor:
      - Matching funds for each countywide candidate is capped at \$23,000
      - Matching funds for each candidate for county legislature is capped at \$1,000
    - Must meet threshold number of donations to be eligible.
    - Establishes a Campaign Finance Fund for no less than \$50,000 or no more than \$150,000.
    - Ensures fiscal responsibility through established criteria such as property tax cap compliance.
    - For 2018, \$50,000 will be appropriated for Campaign Finance fund.
  
  - **Commission on Public Finance**
    - Independent Board to provide administration, oversight and enforcement.
    - Makes recommendation to County Legislature on contribution limits and public financing thresholds.
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