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City Club of Portland Resolution of the Board of Governors Support of Proposed "Clean Money Campaigns in Portland" Draft Proposal

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

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City Club of Portland
Resolution of the Board of Governors
Support of Proposed
"Clean Money Campaigns in Portland"
Draft Proposal Dated July 2004

City Club's Research Board and Board of Governors have prepared the following resolution supporting the draft proposal for "Clean Money Campaigns in Portland." This resolution is based on the Club's positions taken in all earlier related study.

(As adopted by the Board of Governors on August 23, 2004.)

PREAMBLE

In September 2000, a committee of the City Club of Portland studied Ballot Measure 6. This measure proposed public funding of primary and general election campaigns for Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, State Senator, and State Representative. The study committee considered

- problems with Oregon's system of campaign finance
- issues encountered in previous efforts to reform the system
- the basic features and cost of the campaign-finance system that would be enacted by passage of Measure 6
- concerns about public financing of political campaigns in general
- concerns about the effect Measure 6 would have on Oregon political campaigns.

The Measure 6 study committee's work culminated with the unanimous recommendation of a YES vote on Measure 6. The City Club membership approved the Committee's report on October 20, 2000.

In November 2000, Oregon voters rejected Ballot Measure 6. However, the measure received strong support in Portland where it passed by a margin of 57% to 43%.

Recently, Portland City Council began to examine a system of public campaign finance at the city level. Prompted by a proposal from Commissioner Erik Sten and City Auditor Gary Blackmer, the Council, in April 2004, authorized Sten, the

Commissioner of Public Works, and Blackmer to develop a system for public funding of the primary and general election campaigns for City Auditor, City Council, and Mayor.

In July 2004, the City Auditor and the Commissioner of Public Works released a document entitled "Draft for Clean Money Campaigns in Portland." This proposal details a system of public campaign finance that adapts the statewide provisions of Measure 6 to Portland city elections. The proposal is similar to Measure 6 in all material aspects.

Public comment will be accepted by the Office of the City Auditor until October 1, 2004, after which City Council will act on the proposal.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the July 2004 draft of the "Clean Money Campaigns in Portland" proposal retains the basic features of Ballot Measure 6 (2000); and

WHEREAS, the City Club Membership approved the recommendation for a YES vote on Ballot Measure 6.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors shall publicly express City Club's support of the current draft of the "Clean Money Campaigns in Portland" proposal.

Copies of City Club's research study report ***Ballot Measure 6: Public Funding of Political Campaigns*** are available online at www.pdxcityclub.org or by calling Research Director Wade Fickler at 503-228-7231.

The ***Draft for Clean Money Campaigns in Portland*** is available to download from the City of Portland's Web site at: www.portlandonline.com/auditor. The City's election officer, Susan Francois, is collecting comments about this draft proposal. Suggestions may be submitted to: sfrancois@ci.portland.or.us or 1221 S.W. Fourth Ave. Room 140, Portland, OR 97204 by Friday, October 1, 2004.

