



Office of the Mayor

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December 2, 2008

Dear Community Stakeholder,

As chair of the City of Madison Blue Ribbon Committee on Clean Elections, I am writing to ask for your help. The Committee, appointed by Madison's Mayor and City Council, is charged with investigating and making recommendations on whether Madison should consider public financing or other electoral reforms for election of mayor, alderperson, or municipal judge.

The Committee has identified several issues to investigate in preparing our report to the City Council, including: Is there adequate competition in local elections? Have expenditures of winning campaigns increased significantly in recent years? Do candidates who spend the most money win most of the time? Is the difficulty of raising money a barrier to proportional representation by specific groups?

The Committee is particularly interested in asking your organization to consider the relationship between campaign fundraising and representation. Do members of your organization feel that the difficulty of raising campaign funds stops representatives of specific groups from running for elected office in Madison? Is money a barrier to potential candidates who may be low-income individuals, persons of color, women, or representatives of other groups? We are especially interested in specific examples or data, if available, but we also welcome your opinions about the effect of campaign fundraising on representation.

If possible, we would like to hear from you by January 23, 2009. To communicate with our committee, please send hard copy communications to: Mayor's Office, Attention: Janet Piraino, Mayor's Chief of Staff, 210 M L King Jr. Blvd., Room 403, Madison, WI 53703. Email messages can be sent to cleanelections@cityofmadison.com.

On behalf of the Blue Ribbon Committee, I thank you for any assistance you can provide us on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ken Mayer, Ph.D.
Chair, Madison Blue Ribbon Committee on Clean Elections

KM:pw

PS: To find out more about our committee, you can view information on the City Website at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/500350.HTML>