



13 Editorials Across NYS Call on Governor Cuomo and Legislature to Act Swiftly on Campaign Finance Reform

Following the 2018 elections, at least thirteen editorials across New York state called for the Governor Cuomo and the Legislature to prioritize passing campaign finance reform in 2019, including implementing a statewide small donor matching program like New York City's.

The diverse and growing Fair Elections for New York campaign includes [over 135 groups](#) coming together to urge leaders in Albany to make their first priority not only voting rights, but also passing comprehensive campaign finance reform, including a small donor matching system. Closing the LLC loophole is not enough.

The campaign includes "government reform groups, political clubs, labor unions, faith-based organizations, and grassroots advocates fighting for everything from immigration and tenant reform to environmental protections," [reports](#) the Gotham Gazette, "because, they say, they recognize that strengthening New York's democracy is the first domino in improving, on multiple fronts, the everyday lives of New Yorkers."

Included below is a roundup of relevant editorials:

[Editorial: Andrew Cuomo's duty: Attack Albany's ethics rot in a third term](#)

New York Daily News

November 8, 2018

Next year, Democrats will take the Senate gavel. Campaigning, Cuomo took care to tamp down expectations that his party would pass campaign finance reforms, telling the Daily News Editorial Board: "As we've learned, painfully, when the minority becomes a majority, they often change their tune."...Not this time. A new class of senators clobbered Independent Democratic Conference incumbents on platforms of wringing big money out of politics and will be raring to get the job done. The moment for change has arrived. Cuomo can get on board, or consider his third term a failure.

[Editorial: All the power in New York](#)

Albany Times Union

November 10, 2018

Democrats have all the power they could ever want to do the many positive things they've been championing. It would be more than a shame if they fail to follow through on their promises; it would be a breach of voters' trust.....it is time to design and enact a fair, honest and affordable system of publicly-funded elections.

[Albany is a Mess. Grab a Broom](#)

New York Times

September 5, 2018

The state should also consider adopting public financing of campaigns, a matching system that would take back power from well-funded special interests and make elections more competitive. Such a system has worked well, over all, for New York City.

[Editorial: Dems have two years to make a difference](#)

Times Herald Record

November 7, 2018

They need to reduce the temptation and corruption that money has on elections following the example of New York City which is moving toward more public funding of elections and starting with the elimination of the loophole that allows some businesses to give unlimited amounts to favored candidates.

[Editorial: Put up or shut up on cleaning up Albany](#)

The Island Now

November 13, 2018

...approve public financing of statewide elections along the lines of New York City to help take special-interest money out of elections or at least reduce its importance.

[Editorial: No campaign finance reform, no raise for state lawmakers](#)

Buffalo News

December 5, 2018

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie made a convincing case about the need for a pay increase before the compensation panel, citing the long absence of raises, the effect of inflation and the high cost of living for downstate members. But neither he nor incoming Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has been willing to pledge any kind of reform...The commission needs to hang tough and insist on credible, effective reforms before agreeing to any increase in pay.

[No ethics reforms, no raises for New York State legislators](#)

Newsday

November 20, 2018

*As scandals have taken down 30 lawmakers and state officials over the past two decades, including Dean Skelos, a Republican who led the State Senate, and Sheldon Silver, a Democrat who was the Assembly speaker, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has rightly demanded ethics reforms such as strict limits on outside income....Here's a way to do it: **CAMPAIGN-FINANCE REFORM**: Lower the current individual contribution limits of \$44,000 in statewide general elections, \$11,000 in Senate races and \$4,400 in Assembly contests and end the loopholes that allow contributors to evade such limits.*

[Editorial: The blame game is over. No more excuses for Democrats in Albany.](#)

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

November 10, 2018

When Gov. Andrew Cuomo met with our Editorial Board before Election Day, he laid out what he called his "unfinished" agenda. Near the top of this list was campaign finance reform, including closing the LLC loophole.

[Editorial: Who has the courage to enact reforms?](#)

Daily Gazette

November 6, 2018

If we're truly serious about holding fair elections and reducing corruption in state government, then the people with the most to gain from maintaining the status quo have to have the political courage to vote against their own self-interests for the good of honest, fair and equal representation in state government.

Editorial: 6 takeaways from 2018 midterm elections

Syracuse Post-Standard

November 8, 2018

Unified government in Albany removes any obstacles to tackling the culture of corruption. Close the LLC loophole. Curb campaign contributions. Create an independent ethics watchdog. No one's standing in the way. Just do it.

New York finds that 'blue wave' with state Senate landing in the hands of the Democrats

Rockland/Westchester Journal News

November 7, 2018

Cuomo's also promised ethics reform and campaign finance fixes, usually after a high-profile conviction like that of Sheldon Silver, or Dean Skelos, or Joe Percoco, or Alain Kaloyeros. Let's hope Cuomo doesn't confuse a decided victory with disinterest in those issues.

Editorial: No excuses left for Democrats in New York

Poughkeepsie Journal

November 8, 2018

State Democratic leaders can set a positive tone early by pledging to have a far more open and transparent budget process and by passing a slew of 'good government' and fair-minded initiatives that have been sought by many reformists for decades.

Editorial: Mailer loophole shows 'transparency' message is all hot air

Niagara Gazette

November 7, 2018

Transparency, 'corruption' and 'integrity' are big buzz words during election season. Once the votes are tallied and another Election Day has come and gone, the winners tend to be less enthusiastic about 'cleaning up' their particular corner of our often flawed and, at times, despicable level of government.