



January 4, 2019

Dear Governor Cuomo:

New York has an unprecedented opportunity to lead the nation -- quite literally -- on campaign finance reform, with a small donor matching system. We write to request your help.

As you know, Speaker Pelosi and key leaders in Congress are spearheading an effort to make democracy reforms the first bill in the 116th Congress. In a November 25 oped in the Washington Post, entitled, The Democratic Majority Will Restore Democracy, Pelosi and Representative Sarbanes wrote:

Americans went to the polls and sent a powerful message: The election not only was a resounding verdict against Republicans' assault on Americans' health care and wages, but also it was a vote to rescue our broken democracy.

First among the democracy-rescuing reforms they described was campaign finance reform:

We must also empower hard-working Americans in our democracy by building a 21st-century campaign-finance system - combining small-donor incentives and matching support - to increase and multiply the power of small donors. Wealthy special interests shouldn't be able to buy more influence than the workers, consumers and families who should be our priority in Washington.

We know you are aware of voter hunger for reform, and we know you believe in amplifying the power of small donors to limit the power of big money in our politics. You've called for it every year you've been in office.

With Democrats taking over the U.S. House of Representatives, the nation is heading down the track that New York is already on. **The destination is a new era of democracy reforms such as small donor public financing, automatic voter registration and early voting.** New York, under your leadership, can get there first, and in so doing provide a boost to the broader national effort.

That is precisely why we write. Show the nation how it can be done. Inspire Congress and give something to candidates to point to in 2020. We'll work hard to pass a federal bill in the U.S. House this month. We then hope to look to New York as a model for the nation.

Luckily, you are not alone. You have two legislative leaders who have sponsored small donor matching system bills. You also have us, and many others hoping to see this happen. Please let us know how we can help you help the rest of the country.

Sincerely,

African American Ministers in Action
American Family Voices
Arab American Institute
Ben & Jerry's
Brennan Center for Justice
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Popular Democracy
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Cleanup Carl
Clean Water Action
Color of Change
Common Cause
Concerned Citizens For Change
CREDO Action
Daily Kos
Democracy Initiative
Democracy Matters
Democracy 21
Demos
End Citizens United – Fight for Reform
Equal Citizens
Every Voice
Food & Water Watch
Franciscan Action Network
Free Speech For People
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Indivisible
Left Action
Main Street Alliance
MapLight
MAYDAY America
MoveOn

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Council of Jewish Women
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
New Progressive Alliance
Our Revolution
People Demanding Action
People For the American Way
People's Action
Presente.org
Progressive Change Campaign Committee
Progressive Turnout Project
Public Citizen
SEIU
Sierra Club
Stand Up America
Sunrise Movement
Transformative Justice Coalition
Unitarian Universalist Association
Voter Rights Action