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OREGON STATE SENATE

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PRINCIPLES FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

What do we want Oregon's campaign contribution limits to do?

I. Restore public confidence

- Simplicity—easy to explain and understand
- Transparency—assure that funds flow in very visible, understandable, identifiable manner, precluding loopholes and end-runs designed to obscure sources or amounts of contributions.
- Maximize public disclosure and clarity of identity of donors.
- Minimize perception of systemic advantage to any particular party, ideology, or interest beyond the most general public interest.

II. Minimize undue influence of money

- Minimize reality/perception that aggregated contributions could influence policy decisions and legislative votes.
- Subject all contributions, from any channel or vehicle, to clear limits.

III. Encourage broader participation in political campaigns and public life generally

- Enhance the significance, perceived and real, of small contributions (explore options to enhance them with matching-fund mechanisms).
- Provide option to aggregate small contributions with like-minded people to encourage solicitation of small contributions.
- Set contribution limits at levels that are relatable for most Oregonians (levels not in excess of, e.g., 150% of what median-wealth Oregonians could imagine themselves contributing).