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Fair Elections and Good Government Advocates Call for Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform

Latest Scandal Emphasizes Urgent Need to Empower Voters, End Money in Politics Culture

Albany, NY - Good government groups and organizations in the Fair Elections for New York campaign gathered at the Capitol today to call on New York State government to pass a comprehensive campaign finance reform package that includes publicly financed elections. The urgent need for reform was highlighted by the news yesterday of yet another major corruption scandal involving government officials.

"New Yorkers deserve a transparent, responsive and ethical state government and we need to stop this continuing tide of corruption in its tracks," said **Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director for the League of Women Voters of New York State**. "A critical part of the solution is comprehensive campaign finance reform and independent robust enforcement of campaign finance laws"

"Councilman Halloran is right: for a disheartening number of politicians, New York politics is all about the money. Without comprehensive reforms to our electoral system, candidates that care only about their net worth will continue to win office," said **Bill Mahoney of NYPIRG**.

"The sad truth is that until we fundamentally change the way Albany works, we aren't going to see any end to the pervasive influence of money in our political system," said **Karen Scharff, Executive Director of Citizen Action of New York**. "Across the state, there is an urgent cry for reform. New York needs to pass a comprehensive campaign finance reform package with publicly financed elections at its core now."

The groups are calling on Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to pass a comprehensive campaign finance reform package, which would include contribution limits, strong enforcement, an end to "pay-to-play," and a publicly financed small donor matching system.