



LWVMA Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws  
In Opposition to H.572 - An Act relative to the elimination of public campaign financing  
By Linda Freedman – LWVMA Election and Voting Rights Specialist  
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts opposes this bill. The League is in favor of public financing of campaigns and supports the current program of limited public campaign financing for statewide offices in Massachusetts.

If Section 1 chapter 55C is repealed, Massachusetts would lose the funds provided by the voluntary contributions made by state income tax filers, which support the campaigns for the statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Secretary of the Commonwealth and Auditor.

The program is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance, which issues reports on the distribution of funds and campaign spending, and there is flexibility for candidates to opt in or out of the matching program

At a time of massive changes in campaign finance and increasing funding from large donors and activist groups, it is critical that this program, even though it is small, be maintained. It helps to mitigate the influence of well-funded special interests and provides encouragement for citizens to seek public office. It is a small step in the direction of public funding of campaigns, which the League supports.

If the program is abolished, candidates might need to raise even more funds from non-public sources. Candidates in the primaries and the general elections could become increasingly responsive to the interests of large campaign donors and PACs.

Ideally, the current funding for the program should be expanded, the availability of the tax check-off option should be more widely publicized, citizens should be encouraged to participate in the tax check-off, and the amount of the check-off could be increased.

Thank you for your consideration.