

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblymember Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

March 29, 2019

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2019. This historic, democracy-enhancing legislation includes the creation of a publicly-financed small donor matching system. We believe that small donor matching is among the best means possible to tackle the dangerous, undue influence of big money in our politics. We remain committed to fighting for this legislation and building a foundation for publicly-financed campaigns. Part of that foundation rests in the states.


As Governor Cuomo said last year, “now is the time to stand up and lead.” New York State is in a unique position to show the rest of the country how this meaningful and necessary campaign finance reform can be accomplished and make a difference in our politics. Unlike the current federal political landscape, New York currently has the ability to pass this historic change now: Executive and legislative leadership in each house that have long championed comprehensive campaign finance reform with small donor matching. Majorities in both houses have also been on the record in support of small donor matching. New York is currently in a position to adopt this change not just this year, but this month as part of the New York State Budget.


We believe small donor matching would restore faith in our government, which is why we included it in H.R. 1. We have all seen the consequences of our current state of money-dominated representative democracy: an economy whose spoils continue to flow towards the wealthy few over the hard-working many; an environment at a crisis point; a health care system that fails too many Americans and their families. We believe passing pro-democracy Fair Elections legislation in New York State will enable the hard-working people of our state to push back on these trends and restore power to the people.

Including small donor matching in the Executive Budget and public financing in the legislative budget priority documents is a show of good faith that we can achieve our shared goal of getting money out of politics. We urge you to keep our shared goal in mind as you consider the budget this year and to keep a viable small donor matching system in the final New York State Budget.

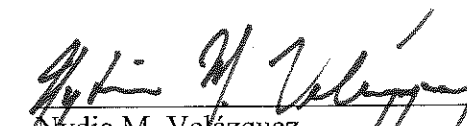
Together you can work towards rebuilding democracy in New York, and establishing a foundation for federal elections in the future. We look forward to working with you.

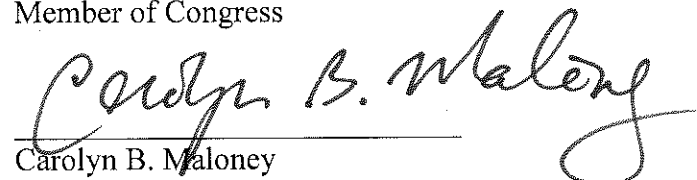
Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

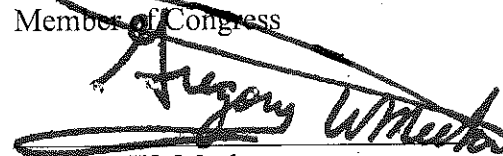

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Member of Congress



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