



Improve Campaign Finance Rules
Support [HB 1952](#) and [HJ 526](#)



Executive Summary. Virginia's campaign finance rules need modernization. **HJ 526** authorizes a joint subcommittee to comprehensively study campaign finance laws in Virginia and **HB 1952** clarifies that candidates cannot use campaign funds for personal use. Passing these bills will start paving a path to greater trust by voters in the integrity of the General Assembly and our representative democracy.

Issue. Virginia's campaign finance rules are outdated. Further, clarification of what kinds of expenditures can be made with campaign funds would reduce risks and promote democracy.

Virginia is one of only five states without restrictions on campaign contributions

– National Conference of State Legislatures

LWV-VA Supports

- **Campaign finance reforms** that enhance political equality for candidates, protect representative democracy from distortion, and provide transparency supporting informed voter choices.
- **A comprehensive review of Virginia's campaign finance laws** will provide recommendations for an updated system reflecting the latest developments and best practices.
- **Public financing of campaigns in Virginia**, as the ultimate solution which should be included in any comprehensive review.
- **Reasonable restrictions on personal use of campaign funds** by candidates. (Such restrictions should not include childcare expenses incurred as a direct result of campaign activity.)

Rationale for Reform

- Virginia's campaign finance laws have been [ranked 47th out of 50](#) states in America because:
 - Virginia is one of only [five states](#) that do not limit contributions, either by dollar amount or by type of contributor.
 - Virginia [does not prohibit](#) candidates from using campaign and political action funds for personal use while they are actively campaigning.
 - The Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council and other state entities [do not have authority](#) to enforce any violations of the law.
- Public financing has been adopted in [14 other states](#). This precedent provides a range of models and results to inform reforms in Virginia.