

The Friends Committee on Legislation believes that government should be fair, responsive, and accountable. There should be full access to our government, and disclosure regarding:

- the way in which representatives are elected,
- the way in which government officials conduct business, and
- conflicts of interest

Individual participation in governmental process is fundamental to assuring responsive government. We therefore support legislation to ensure the widest possible registration of potential voters, including persons who are homeless.

The electoral process must be transparent. Voting systems must be auditable, so that ballot recounts can be done without question, and so that voting outcomes can be verified. Initiatives and propositions should be ideas and policy considerations from citizens of the state, not corporate interests.

Effective participation depends upon, among other things, readily available information on deliberations and decisions of governmental officials and bodies. Such information should be widely accessible to the public, and presented simply and objectively in language reflecting the diversity of the voter participation. Legislative committee actions are particularly important because the fate of most bills is decided in committees and the committee vote is often more important than the floor vote. A legislator's actions and votes in committee deliberations are often the best insight into the legislator's position. We believe that all deliberations of legislative committees and subcommittees (except when they are considering personnel issues) should be conducted openly and that committee votes should be recorded. In addition, information should be gathered and disclosed about legislative votes that benefit entities that have contributed to the legislators involved.

Campaign contributions from individuals or organizations are an important factor in election to public office and the passage of propositions. We believe that information on campaign contributions should be gathered, and full disclosure of them made to the public, prior to elections. We also believe that the total amount spent in election campaigns should be limited. We further believe campaigns should be financed from public funds.

Approved by FCLCA General Meeting, 12/04/10.