



# Ten Point Plan to “Cure The Culture Of Corruption”

## REDUCE INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN OUR DEMOCRACY

1. **Pass comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform** for New York State that:
  - Provides matching public funds to privately raised dollars;
  - Gives the public more information about how candidates and political committees are raising and spending campaign funds;
  - Closes loopholes that allow extremely large donations to party committees;
  - Lowers significantly our current sky-high contribution limits;
  - Ends “pay to play” by limiting donations from those who do business with the state; and
  - Requires greater disclosure and oversight of independent expenditure campaigns and ensures that these efforts are not coordinated with candidates’ campaigns.
2. Reform further the New York City Council’s **member item process by providing funds on a more equitable and less political basis.**

## TOUGHEN ENFORCEMENT and EXPAND OVERSIGHT

3. Strengthen laws and **enact stricter penalties** for those **convicted of political corruption.**
4. Return to **Attorney General the power to independently pursue allegations and initiate investigations of public corruption.**
5. Create an **Independent Campaign Finance Enforcement Unit** at the state level with strong authority to separately administer and ensure compliance with election campaign finance laws.
6. Urge **county district attorneys to exercise their authority to pursue election law violations** that are sent to them by boards of elections.
7. Fully **fund the enforcement and oversight function of state and local boards of elections**, because laws can’t be enforced if there is insufficient staff to do so.
8. **Change the voting structure of the new Joint Commission on Public Ethics** to remove the ability of a small minority of JCOPE’s members to block an investigation and require their votes be publicly disclosed in certain instances.

## OPEN UP OUR ELECTIONS

9. Revamp state and local boards of elections so **commissioners and staff are selected based on merit and not by party chairs through patronage.** Allow candidates easier access to the ballot.
10. **End Tammany Hall-era political party control over our city elections** by allowing participation by all voters in all elections regardless of party affiliation through top-two nonpartisan elections.

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Take Action: Visit [www.citizensunion.org](http://www.citizensunion.org) and click on Cure the Culture of Corruption