



CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 22, 2013 Public Hearing

Campaign Finance Bill

**Opposition to:**

**HB 5897 AAC COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS  
UNDER THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM**

Comments submitted by Christine S. Horrigan, Government Director

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The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan, statewide organization committed to effective public policy and the active involvement of citizens in their government. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the campaign finance bill before you today.

The League believes that the goals of a campaign finance system should (1) ensure the public's right to know, (2) combat corruption and undue influence, and (3) enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

**The League opposes HB 5897.** Public financing of campaigns enables candidates to run for office regardless of their personal finances. It can also aid in removing the undue influence of large-scale money. The League believes that limits on overall expenditures by a candidate should be realistic and reasonable – not so low as to affect candidates adversely. HB 5897 would eliminate cost-of-living adjustments under the Citizens' Election Program. Over time, inflation would erode the significance of the grants made to participating candidates, rendering races between non-participating and participating candidates less competitive and magnifying the influence of large-scale money. The League of Women Voters of Connecticut believes that there is no better investment in democracy than "clean elections." Please oppose HB 5897.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this bill.