



Veena Lothe for Virginia's 12th Senate District

CLEANING UP ELECTIONS IN OUR COMMONWEALTH

REFORM POLICIES TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION IN VIRGINIA



WHY VIRGINIA NEEDS COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Virginia's campaign finance system is **fundamentally broken**. Under our current system, powerful donors can contribute unlimited funds to candidates. They use this to influence politicians and control policy. Our elected officials should work for the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia--not corporations and special interests.

"Mega-donors and corporations are corrupting our political system up and down the ballot. Veena Lothe's plan to ban direct corporate donations to campaigns, ensure full transparency of money in elections, and create contribution limits of \$5,000 per election are critical steps in rooting out corruption. It would change the status quo in Virginia."--Tiffany Muller, President of End Citizens United

In our Commonwealth, we have the opportunity to make substantial strides forward on campaign finance to ensure that every voice is equally heard in our democracy. We deserve to know who our politicians are beholden to--special interests or voters. One family, one corporation, or one special interest group should not dictate the direction of our Commonwealth--only the voters should do that. That is why I am calling for comprehensive campaign finance reform.

IN 2015:

\$988k

AVERAGE COST OF A
STATE SENATE ELECTION
DURING THE LAST CYCLE

IN 2015:

\$1.31m

HOW MUCH MONEY
DOMINION GAVE TO
CANDIDATES

AS OF MARCH 31, 2019

\$1.13m

HOW MUCH MONEY ONE
FAMILY HAS DONATED
TO CANDIDATES

STEPS TO REFORM OUR CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: NO CORPORATE DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Our elected officials should be accountable to their constituents--**not** corporations or special interests. Corporations spend millions of dollars in our local and state elections to sway the outcome. We need to tackle this issue head on, so that voters have full confidence in exactly who their elected officials are representing. I will lead the fight in the Senate, and this starts in my own campaign, which is why our campaign will **not** take any corporate contributions.

ACTIVELY TRANSPARENT FUNDRAISING

Our campaign will publicly disclose whenever we have fundraisers in the area, so that the voters know who is spending money in our elections. These fundraisers will also openly allow press to attend these events.

RUNNING A GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN

As a grassroots leader, I know that it is crucial to engage our community in conversations around policy. Virginians support comprehensive campaign finance reform. That is why we are talking about it everywhere we go and are proactively releasing this bold reform plan. Our friends, family, and neighbors need to know that this along with other important pro-democracy reforms are on the line in June and November.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

STEPS TO REFORM OUR CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM

END CORPORATE DONATIONS IN ELECTIONS

Virginians deserve public servants who work for us, not for corporations. Corporations are banned from donating directly to candidates in federal elections and in 22 other states because it causes an unacceptable risk of corruption. Virginia should end this risk and adopt the same standard. This is why I will champion legislation in the General Assembly to end corporate donations in our elections in Virginia and fully return power to the people.

END UNLIMITED CONTRIBUTIONS

Unlimited contributions are currently one of the biggest issues in our Commonwealth's campaign finance system. Big money dictates policy priorities and stances rather than the voters. By creating contribution limits of \$5,000 per election, we can prevent big donors from drowning out the voices of everyone else

LOBBYING DISCLOSURES

In the Virginia General Assembly, regulations around lobbying are some of the most relaxed in the country. I plan to champion reforms that tighten the definition of who needs to register as a lobbyist and require all lobbyists to report what bills they are pushing and who they are trying to influence in the General Assembly.

IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STEPS TO REFORM OUR CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM

INCREASING PENALTIES FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS

Currently, our campaign finance system has no strong enforcement mechanism. This system incentivizes bad behavior to go unreported and unheard. The resulting corruption erodes public trust in our elections and our government. In the General Assembly, I will propose legislation to create whistleblower protections and oversight for campaign finance violations.

FULL TRANSPARENCY OF MONEY IN ELECTIONS

Voters deserve to know who's funding our elections. The current system allows anyone - even foreign governments and companies - to secretly spend in our elections. We need complete disclosure of the original sources of all electoral spending so we know who's trying to influence our choices .

END PERSONAL USE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

In Virginia, politicians can use campaign contributions for personal use. We are one of the only states where this practice is allowed. It allows for frivolous spending and incentivizes unethical behavior. In the General Assembly, I would co-patron a bill to end this practice.

IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VEENA— LOTHE



FOR VIRGINIA STATE SENATE

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