

RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OPTIONS

WHEREAS, the cost of running for local office should be attainable to everyday citizens in any North Carolina community; and

WHEREAS, public financing programs that encourage small donations, voter participation, and voluntary spending limits are present at the federal and state level, including in North Carolina statewide judicial and executive branch elections; and

WHEREAS, public financing programs increase voter contact with candidates, and allow elections to be "voter-owned"; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill successfully implemented a public financing pilot in 2009, with participating candidates winning more votes than any of their non-participating opponents; and

WHEREAS, a North Carolina city or town can only be implemented if State law is changed to give local governments the authority to pursue this option; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina House of Representatives passed HOUSE BILL 120, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, during the 2009 session,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Asheville calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor to enact legislation that gives larger towns the authority to sponsor a public financing program for their elections, using local resources, with technical assistance from the State Board of Elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such legislation should allow for the consideration of said financing by any qualifying municipality, but not mandate the implementation of such a plan.