

Overview & Strategic Plan





What are clean elections

WHAT ARE "CLEAN ELECTIONS":



Transparent

- Voters must have access to clear, information about the views, experience and character of the candidates from clearly identified sources
- Identity and dollar amount of campaign contributions are fully disclosed and accessible to voters in advance of election
- 82% of Minnesotans support transparency yet we still have dark money in Minnesota.



Accessible

- All eligible voters are provided opportunity to cast their votes freely
- Eligible voters have easy access to ballots and are not discouraged by long lines, inaccessible polling stations, hard-to-obtain identity requirements, intimidation, and fraudulent claims about lack of eligibility
- Support legislation than can increase voter participation rather than restrict it



Secure

- Votes cast are properly counted and not subject to flawed counts or fraud



Financing

- The public must have faith that the results of an election are those intended by voters and not well-funded special interest groups
- In several states "clean elections" are associated with public financing of election - like a 6 to 1 match for small contributions.

Members of Congress waste taxpayer dollars spending more than HALF of their working hours fundraising! (60 Minutes, April 2016)

Spending by special interest OVERWHELMS the influence of the voting people. "How can 90% of Congress be reelected with 15% average approval ratings." (Washington Post, May 2021)

The outcome of a "clean election" credibly reflects the will of informed voters.

WHAT WE DO



Educate Clean Elections Members & Others

- Protecting and Expanding Voter Registration
- Fair Redistricting in Minnesota
- Better Public Financing of Campaigns
- Host educational events
- Generate educational materials
- Generate Op-ed pieces and Letters to the Editor.



Advocate for Legislative Reform

We will monitor legislative committees, hearings, etc. related to issues such as:

- Better public campaign financing
- Blocking coordination between candidates and outside spenders
- Fair Redistricting
- Prohibiting dark money contributions
- Promoting automatic voter registration
- Curtailing revolving door between lobbying and government work – elected office and regulatory heads



Continue to Build Clean Elections Minnesota

- Raise the public profile of Clean Elections MN
- Grow membership
- Raise sustaining funds for clean elections via grant proposals, donors, and other means
- Maintain communication structure including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and our website

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HISTORICAL AREAS OF ACTIVITY:

1. Sponsored educational events
2. Published educational materials. Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor
3. Researched and tracked best practice Campaign Finance solutions nationally
4. Surveyed candidates on their views
5. Expert testimony, speeches and panel discussions



Clean Elections Minnesota On the Move– Education and Advocacy

2017

- Incorporate in Minnesota as 501(c)(3)
- Chair George Beck initiates “Notes from Chair”
- Website (cleelectionsmn.org) constructed and marketing materials produced
- Clean Elections sponsored a talk by Jeff Clements, President of American Promise on February 17, 2017, on reversing the Citizens United Supreme Court decision.
- 2017 survey to all Minneapolis city council candidates on Seattle style election vouchers (public financing)
- 2017 – CEM adopted a Minnesota Campaign Finance Reform Agenda for use at the legislature and for the public and revised every year thereafter.
- Co-sponsored an event on redistricting at Hamline University June 2017 – MinnPost published an article on Board member Ruth Cain and her work on public financing.
- Chair George Beck participated in a panel on redistricting, ranked choice voting and Minnesota election legislation for the Minnesota Humanists.
- A CEM panel talked to the District 35 DFL about *Citizens United*, big money, and gerrymandering on October 25, 2017.

2018

- CEM co-sponsored a talk by Jeff Clements, author of “Corporations Are Not People” and the President of American Promise.
- Petitioned Campaign Finance Board for a rule on cooperation between independent committees and candidates which led to a 2018 statute.
- Redistricting expert Peter Wattson addressed CEM on redistricting in Minnesota and how gerrymandering happens.
- CEM co-sponsored the movie “Dark Money” in Minneapolis
- Legislative testimony that resulted in the preservation of public financing in MN
- Statewide House candidate survey asked candidates about their support for reversing Citizens United, dark money, and public financing.
- Sample campaign finance resolutions were prepared and presented at 12 precinct caucuses and adopted in the state DFL platform.
- CEM Legislative Team assembled to work at the Capitol.
- Teamed with American Promise worked to have resolutions to reverse Citizens United adopted by city councils.
 - Clean Elections becomes member of Common Cause/Minnesota Alliance for Democracy coalition

2019

- Sponsored a talk by Hedrick Smith, the Pulitzer Prize winning former New York Times reporter, in Minneapolis. Mr. Smith the author of “Who Stole the American Dream?” talked to a large audience about “Winning Back Our Democracy.”
- GuideStar awarded CEM its Silver Star of Transparency in 2019
- University of Minnesota political science professor Kathryn Pearson spoke to Clean Elections on “Transparency and Campaign Spending in Minnesota.”
- Patrick Rosenstiel, a national consultant to the National Popular Vote effort, spoke to Clean Elections about the benefits and progress of NPV.
- Organized a postcard writing campaign to let legislators know the bills we support
- Jim Herrick gave several talks to Kiwanis groups about an amendment to reverse Citizens United and campaign finance reform.
- Chair George Beck spoke to Senate District 46 DFL, Metro Move-On and the Edina League of Women Voters.
- Sponsored talk by Secretary of State Steve Simon on Minnesota elections.
- Sponsored a talk by U. S. Rep. Dean Phillips on “Drawing Back the Curtain on Campaign Finance”.

2020

- CEM sponsored a talk by State Demographer Susan Brower on the 2020 census.
- George Beck testified to the House Elections subcommittee.
- Co-sponsored a talk by U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips on “Work in a Divided Congress”.
- Board members David Miller and Ruth Cain spoke at a League of Women Voters event on voter information and registration.
- Co-sponsored Democracy Rally Day at the State Capitol with other democracy reform groups and heard from legislators, retired Justice Paul Anderson and Prof. Richard Painter among others.
- Supporters presented resolutions on elections to Minnesota precinct caucuses.
- Surveyed all Minnesota state senate candidates to find out their views on election issues like disclosure, unlimited contributions, partial public funding, a national popular vote, and an independent commission for redistricting. The results were published on our website by legislative district.
- Sponsored a talk by Duke Professor Nancy MacLean, author of *Democracy in Chains*, moderated by Board member Dave Hage.
- Sponsored a statewide poll of Minnesotans conducted by St. Cloud State University which asked whether campaign contributions should be public

2021

- Supported a comprehensive election reform bill sponsored by Representative Emma Greenman to end dark money, create automatic voter registration, restore the right to vote for released felons, mail absentee ballots to all voters, add public financing and expand early voting. Chair George Beck testified in favor on the bill on January 28, 2021.
- Opposed S.F. 173 which required a voter ID and required provisional ballots for anyone attempting to register at the polls. George Beck testified against the bill.
- Chair George Beck participated in programs on ranked choice voting sponsored by Fair Vote Minnesota
- Sponsored a legislative panel with Senator Jim Carlson and Representative Emma Greenman.
- Supported ranked choice voting with written testimony before the House Local Government committee.
- Sponsored a talk by author David Litt (*Democracy in One Book or Less*)
- George Beck participated in a panel sponsored by the Humphrey School along with Professor Kathryn Pearson on *Money in Politics in Minnesota*.
- Co-sponsored a Zoom talk by Duke Historian Nancy MacLean.
- Co-sponsored Lori Sturdevant interview of Peter Wattson on MN re-districting.

PARTNERSHIPS, WHERE DOES CEM FIT?



Fair Redistricting, restore the vote to individuals with felony convictions, legislative transparency and voter empowerment. (Lobby & Observer Corps)



Fair Redistricting, voting, constitution, courts, ethics and accountability (Prepared to initiate lawsuits)



Ranked choice voting (Education and outreach)



National organization focused on anti-corruption laws. (Uses actors and public figures to publicize anti-corruption legislation)



- Minnesota-based Board of experts and local leaders
- Provide local educational opportunities, expert analysis and legislative testimony
- Credibility to participate in a coalition of like-minded partners
- Unaffiliated local non-profit able to respond promptly



Long Term Goals

1. Expand education opportunities and base of active supporters
2. Promote Democracy education to increase public awareness
3. Support CEM initiatives with the legislature

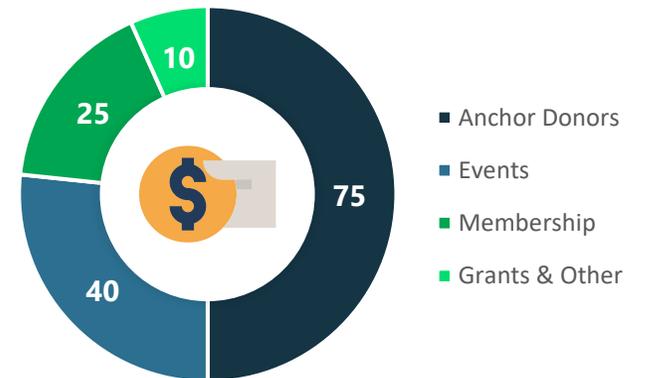
Short-Term Goals

- A. Establish Funds for Executive Director in 2022
- B. Hire an Executive Director
- C. Other: **Monitor hearings related to Redistricting**; Work with allies to **Promote 2022 Policy Agenda**; **Continue Education and Public Outreach** to keep Election Reform in the forefront.

Use of Funds



Source of Funds



Action Plan



WHO WE ARE



Clean Elections Board of Directors :



George Beck, Chair. A retired administrative law judge, George has also served as board member and chair of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. George earned his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.



Lonni Skrentner, Vice Chair. Lonni is a retired Social studies teacher, former school board member, and past president of the Edina League of Women Voters



Ron Bardal, Secretary. Ron is a retired electrical engineer and quality consultant. He earned a BSEE from North Dakota State University and an MBA from the University of Minnesota Carlson School.



Ken Peterson, Treasurer. Retired MN Commissioner of Labor and Industry, Ken has been Deputy Attorney General for Government Operations and Deputy Commissioner of Utility Regulation in the Department of Public Services. Ken earned a J.D. from George Washington University and an MPA from Harvard.



Todd Otis. Todd served as a representative in the MN House for 12 years. His life-long advocacy in the area of early childhood education has helped improve the lives of children and their families. Todd earned a B.A. in history from Harvard and an MS in journalism from Columbia University; he served in the Peace Corps in Senegal.



Zina Fizer. A small business owner, marketing professional, political candidate, and program director of Black Women Rising, Zina has a B.A. in Communications and a M.A. in Community Organizing and Advocacy Political Leadership. Zina is head of the Clean Elections Legislative Team.



Dave Hage. Dave is a retired journalist who spent most of his career at the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, where he was a reporter, editor and editorial writer specializing in labor, economics, poverty and health policy. He's the co-author, with Paul Klauda, of "No Retreat, No Surrender: Labor's War at Hormel" and served as editor of Walter Mondale's memoir, "The Good Fight." He's a graduate of the Minneapolis Public Schools and Yale College. As reporter and editor, Dave won the Pulitzer Prize once and was a finalist twice.



Kathleen Janasz. A senior communications professional with more than 30 years of experience in business, non-profit, agency and government sectors, Kathleen's work experience includes stints with Weber Shandwick, the Minnesota Departments of Labor & Industry and Energy & Economic Development, and Medtronic. Her volunteer and pro bono work includes contributions to Northside Women's Space, Cornerstone Advocacy, Sheila Wellstone Institute, Minneapolis Public Schools and youth sports. She is an Elder, Deacon and Volunteer at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis.



Connie Lewis. Retired Executive VP for External Affairs, Upper Midwest Planned Parenthood, Connie was from 1996-2002 State Director, Office of Senator Paul Wellstone. She earned an MA from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.



David Miller. A former writer, editor, and business training developer. David has a PhD from the University of Minnesota in American studies. He heads the Communications Team.



Ruth Cain. Ruth retired from managing a mentoring program for Minneapolis Summer Youth Employment Program participants in 2000, after service on the MN Public Utilities Commission and an active career in MN politics.