

U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Social Policy Resolution

CA95.07.67



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Adopted by the 1995 Churchwide Assembly.

Whereas

Whereas, successful election campaigns in our society are almost totally dependent upon the expenditure of large sums of money for various forms of political advertising and other campaign expenses; and

Whereas, the vast majority of our citizens do not have access to the large sums of money required to conduct a successful election campaign; and

Whereas, in most instances, less wealthy citizens are not able to be elected to public office, or even to elect candidates who will be responsive to their needs for dignity and justice; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states that, the Church shall "serve in response to God's love to meet human needs,... advocating dignity and justice for all people,... and standing with the poor and the powerless, and committing itself to their needs (4.02.c.); and

Whereas, the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs provides direct advocacy on public policy issues that may affect the members of our church; therefore, be it

Resolved

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call upon its members and the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs to advocate for the enactment of campaign finance reform legislation at the local, state, and national levels, so that an equal opportunity may be provided for all candidates for elected office, regardless of their personal wealth or the wealth of their supporters.