

# Kids Voting Arizona Clean Elections Supplement

(Grades 6-8)

*Concept: I Continue to Make  
a Difference*

## Activity *Talk Show Mania*

### Objective

Students articulate their opinions regarding Clean Election funding and share their ideas with others.

### Get Ready

- ✓ Select two students to be “assistant talk show hosts.”  
(Note: The teacher will model the process first. Then, the “assistants” will help the teacher move about the room and ask questions.)
- ✓ Obtain (or make) three “microphones”.
- ✓ Develop a list of questions to ask the “audience” (the whole class), which will require them to take a stand and defend their choices. An initial list of questions is provided below.
- ✓ Review with students what they have learned about Clean Elections, including the reasons why candidates choose to participate or not to participate in Clean Elections funding.

### Take a Stand on the Issues

- ✓ Have students stand around the room. Designate one area of the

room as the “agree” area, one area as the “disagree” area, and one area as the “unsure or undecided area. (Tell students it is alright to be undecided. There may be some times when they haven’t made up their minds on an issue, but they must be prepared to give a reason why.)

- ✓ Present one of the predetermined statements and have students move to the appropriate area of the room to indicate their response to the statement.
- ✓ Have the “assistant talk show hosts,” move quickly around the room, asking some individual students to share why they responded as they did. Then, ask other individual students if they agree or disagree with the previous opinion. The talk show host and/or assistants should ask the students to defend their responses by asking “why” or “why not.”
- ✓ Continue at a fast pace presenting the remaining statements.

### Statements (Agree, Disagree, or Undecided)

- Citizens need to understand the types and sources of campaign funding.
- Citizens need to know which candidates are participating in clean elections funding.
- Funding in “big money” elections can be used to influence the way I vote and the way a candidate acts once elected to office.
- Political Action Committees (PACs) and their money are important to the election process.

- The Clean Elections funding system is an important change in the campaign process.
- Restrictions on campaign donations are an unconstitutional restriction of free speech. The Clean Elections funding system allows more citizens the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the election process.
- Traditional campaign funding allows more citizens the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the election process.
- If I were a candidate, I would seek Clean Elections funding. Clean Elections funding could work for federal elections (e.g. Congress, Senate, President).
- Develop bumper stickers that promote or oppose Clean Elections funding.

### **More! (extension activities for students)**

- Imagine that you are running for office and have qualified for Clean Elections funding. Prepare a press release announcing that you have qualified for Clean Elections funding and giving the reasons why you are choosing to participate.
- Imagine that you are running for a specific office and prepare your Citizens Clean Election Commission statement for the Candidate Statement Pamphlet.
- Write a position paper advocating for candidates to participate in Clean Elections funding.
- Work in pairs to list motivating factors for funding a campaign traditionally or publicly. Identify each as a “carrot,” an intrinsic motivating factor, or a “stick,” an extrinsic motivating factor. (Teachers will need to review “intrinsic” and “extrinsic” motivating factors with students.)