



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Money in Politics: Letter to the Editor Template

A few tips before you start:

Before writing a letter to your local paper, check the length restrictions. If they don't have specific guidelines on the website, call the paper. Someone should be able to tell you of any rules to be aware of related to length or subject.

Look for local or national news as a "hook" or a reason your letter will stand out and increase your chances of getting printed. Many LTE that get published are in response to news articles in the local paper.

[Name]

[League Name (if applicable)]

[Location]

[Town, State Zip]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Date]

[Editor's Name or Newspaper]

[Newspaper Address]

[Town, State Zip]

To the Editor:

Our election system should work so that everyday Americans can run for office, even if they aren't well connected to wealthy special interests. The 2012 and 2016 elections have been the most expensive in history. According to OpenSecrets.org, the combined cost of the 2012 and 2016 elections was over \$13 billion. Voters are not the primary funders; SuperPACs and big donors are, and they are controlling the messages and the priorities because they can afford to. We voters are paying the price; our democracy is paying the price.

As a concerned citizen I support reducing the influence of big money in our politics, disclosure of all campaign contributions, and creation of mechanisms for publicly financed elections. I also support a strong Federal Elections Commission that has the tools and wherewithal to hold donors, PACs, and campaigns responsible for missteps in spending, messaging, and fundraising. I urge [NAME OF LAW MAKER, aka Congressman Smith] to make voters their priority and keep big money out of elections.

[Name]

[Role with the League]