



**Citizens Clean Elections
Commission**

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[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT US](#) [CALENDAR](#) [CANDIDATES](#) [DONATE](#) [ELECTION DATA](#) [PUBLICATIONS](#) [ESPAÑOL](#)

[Get Involved](#)
[Mission](#)
[Funding](#)
[Commissioners](#)

Get Involved

[ABOUT US](#) > [Get Involved](#)

Becoming Involved in the political process has become much easier and simpler thanks to the Citizens Clean Elections Act.

The Citizens Clean Elections Act was passed by the people of Arizona in 1998 to restore citizen participation and confidence in our political system. The voters wanted to reduce the potentially corrupting influence of money and to "level the playing field" for participating candidates by simply giving them enough money to run credible campaigns while preserving the right of traditional candidates and others to raise and spend campaign dollars as they choose. The Act allows candidates, running for the Legislature or statewide offices the opportunity to forgo special interest money by collecting a certain number of \$5 donations. In return, the candidate will receive full funding for their campaigns.

In addition to removing the appearance of corruption, the Citizens Clean Elections Act also opens the door for the citizens of Arizona to become more involved in the political process. Here are a few ways in which you can get involved.

1. Donate \$5 to the candidate or candidates of your choice – tell them how you feel about the issues; let them know what is important to you.
2. Volunteer to collect \$5 donations – candidates for the legislature must collect a minimum of 220 \$5 donations from 220 different people. Help the candidate or candidates that you support by volunteering to collect the donations.
3. Host a \$5 party for your candidates – individuals may host parties at their homes for candidates participating in the Clean Elections system. Every adult member of the household may spend up to \$100 on food, drinks and invitations and it does not count as a donation.
4. Donate to the Clean Elections Fund - you may give up to \$670 to the Clean Elections Fund and take a dollar for dollar tax break on your state income tax form. Talk about a win/win situation, you get to take the tax break and the Act continues to open more doors for everyone to become involved in the political process.
5. Volunteer to collect petition signatures – candidates must get a certain number of signatures to ensure that they will be on the ballot. Decide what works best for you and do it. This is your state. Let your voice be heard!

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