



**BIG MONEY OUT VA**  
“DEMOCRACY LOSES WHEN BIG MONEY WINS”

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## **Virginia Advocacy Group Launches Report on the Need for Campaign Finance Reform**

*Citizens to rally for good governance legislation on Democracy Day*

**RICHMOND, VA** – After the most expensive election in the history of the Commonwealth and in recognition that progress on campaign finance reform in Virginia continues to remain elusive, [BigMoneyOutVA](https://www.BigMoneyOutVA.org), an all-volunteer, non-partisan group supporting campaign finance reform, has just relaunched a [Citizens Report on the Need for Campaign Finance Reform in Virginia](#). This report highlights the weaknesses and gaps in Virginia’s current regulations and provides examples of best campaign finance practices from other states and cities. It provides concrete solutions and a roadmap for legislative action.

It is encouraging that this year might be the year for reform, supported by bills focused on capping campaign donations, improving disclosure on independent expenditures, restricting personal use of campaign contributions, and enacting public financing of elections. Polls show that a [vast majority of Virginians support these measures](#), especially after the money going into our 2023 legislative elections reached, according to OpenSecrets data, [\\$188 million](#). This is not only a record for the Commonwealth but places Virginia only second to Illinois as having the most expensive legislative elections in the country.

In recognition of the need for reform, Virginia citizens are coming together to raise their voices and call for good governance legislation. On January 23rd, activists from a number of non-partisan organizations will convene at the state Capitol to participate in a 2nd annual [Democracy Day](#). There advocates from BigMoneyOutVA will join other groups like the [League of Women Voters in Virginia](#), [CommonCauseVA](#), [RepresentUS](#), [UpVoteVA](#), [Clean Virginia](#) and others to urge their legislators to support legislation that ensures fair representation and an equal voice for all citizens.

Advocates are invited to convene on the capital on January 23th, meeting at the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 815 E. Grace Street, Richmond at 7 AM for briefings and training. This will be followed by a press conference at 9:00 AM in the House Briefing Room, located on the second floor of the General Assembly Building, where legislators will be invited to explain and advocate for their bills. Advocates will

spend the remainder of the day at the Capitol testifying in committees, meeting with legislators, and attending workshops on relevant legislative topics. More event details can be found [here](#).

In 1994, Governor Wilder's 1994 Commission on Campaign Finance Reform stated that "Continuing scrutiny of the standards of accountability and conduct for public servants is a sign of vigilance. It signals the awareness that Virginia's reputation for "good government" is fragile. Integrity in government must be nurtured and never taken for granted." Citizen advocates for campaign finance reform, 30 years later, hope that this will be the year that legislators finally recognize that Virginians want a campaign finance system that fosters transparency and accountability, thus allowing the voices of average citizens to be heard.

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***BigMoneyOutVA** is a non-partisan group which champions good governance and transparency in Virginia, while promoting increased public discourse between citizens of the Commonwealth and their legislators. We are dedicated to getting big money out of politics through campaign finance reform so as to increase the legitimacy and integrity of government and to enable our elected officials to better reflect the interests and will of all citizens of the Commonwealth.*