

**RESOLUTION NO. 521 -2011, CREATING A COMMISSION TO
RECOMMEND A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING
FOR COUNTY ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, candidates for elected office in Suffolk County and elsewhere are generally funded by contributions from private citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate share of money donated to political campaigns comes from individuals, businesses and corporations that do business with government or wish to do business with government; and

WHEREAS, other special interest groups utilize campaign contributions to gain access to decision makers and further their narrow agendas; and

WHEREAS, many in the general public perceive that their government is "for sale" and that their interests take a back seat to those who have purchased access with their contributions; and

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk tried to address the problems associated with a "pay to play" culture by enacting a system of public financing for County election campaigns through Local Law No. 25-1998; however, this program failed because it did not include a reliable funding stream; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive's recent announcement that he would not seek reelection due to issues associated with his campaign account lends new urgency to the movement to establish a viable public campaign finance system in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, public campaign finance reform will only succeed with bipartisan support; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that a bipartisan commission is hereby established for the purpose of developing and recommending a framework for a system of public financing of campaigns for County-wide and legislative offices in Suffolk County; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Commission shall be made up of the following members:

- 1) the County Executive, or his designee;
- 2) the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, or his designee;
- 3) a representative from the Suffolk County Legislature's Budget Review Office;
- 4) a representative from the County Executive's Budget Office; and
- 5) representatives from two (2) institutions of higher education in Suffolk County, one selected by the Majority Leader of the County Legislature, and one selected by the Minority Leader of the County Legislature;

- 6) representatives from two (2) organizations dedicated to good government, one selected by the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one selected by the Minority Leader of the County Legislature;

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that in developing their recommendations, the Commission shall assume that candidates of all political parties will be eligible for public financing; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, the Commission shall recommend objective criteria that all candidates will need to satisfy in order to receive public financing; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, the Commission shall make a recommendation as to the best method or methods of funding a system of public campaign financing; and be it further

6th RESOLVED, that the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, or his designee, shall serve as Commission Chair; and be it further

7th RESOLVED, that the Commission Chair shall determine the rules of the proceedings, set a meeting schedule, and arrange to keep a record of all Commission proceedings; and be it further

8th RESOLVED, that five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Commission; and be it further

9th RESOLVED, that the clerical services for the Commission will be provided by the Clerk of the County Legislature; and be it further

10th RESOLVED, the Commission shall issue their written recommendations to the Suffolk County Legislature within six (6) months of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

11th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 21, 2011

EFFECTIVE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-15(F) OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER,
RETURNED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE UNSIGNED JULY 7, 2011

SUFFOLK COUNTY
County Legislature
RIVERHEAD, NY



This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 21, 2011 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

Tim Laube

Clerk of the Legislature

Intro. Res.

1316

Res. No.

521

June 21, 2011

Motion:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vioria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Co-Sponsors:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vioria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

Second:

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker
Eddington, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Vioria-Fisher, Barraga,
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R
1	Edward P. ROMAINE		/			
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN	/				
3	Kate M. BROWNING		/			
4	Thomas MURATORE		/			
6	Sarah S. ANKER	/				
7	Jack EDDINGTON	/				
9	Ricardo MONTANO		/			
10	Thomas CILMI		/			
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA		/			
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.	/				
13	Lynne C. NOWICK		/			
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY	/				
15	DuWayne GREGORY		/			
16	Steven H. STERN	/				
17	Lou D'AMARO	/				
18	Jon COOPER	/				
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.	/				
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.	/				
	Totals	10	8			

MOTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve
Table: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Send To Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Table Subject To Call
<input type="checkbox"/> Lay On The Table
<input type="checkbox"/> Discharge
<input type="checkbox"/> Take Out of Order
<input type="checkbox"/> Reconsider
<input type="checkbox"/> Waive Rule _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Override Veto
<input type="checkbox"/> Close
<input type="checkbox"/> Recess
APPROVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAILED _____
No Motion _____ No Second _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT ADOPTED

Tim Laube

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call Voice Vote _____