

## **Four Freedoms Democratic Club Resolution 2019-00X**

*Whereas* New York City and the State of Connecticut both have robust systems of public matching funds for elections which have been successful in empowering grassroots campaigns and reducing the power of special interests,

*Whereas* our current system requires candidates and incumbent legislators to constantly raise large amounts of private money in order to be competitive in an election,

*Whereas* the New York State Assembly has passed some version of a bill to address these deficiencies through the creation of a State-level public matching funds program numerous times, most recently called the Fair Elections Act,

*Whereas* there is an aggressive campaign by numerous progressive organizations underway – of which our Club and many of its members have been a part – to see this legislation finally enacted,

*Whereas* the Four Freedoms Democratic Club is committed to supporting grassroots politics and reforming our political system to reduce the power of special interests,

### ***Be it hereby resolved that the Four Freedoms Democratic Club:***

1. Believes a system of publicly financed campaigns would allow elected officials to address the problems without the overwhelming influence of big money and corporate donors;
2. Supports the passage of the a bill to create such a system during the current legislative session, so long as such a bill:
  - a. Provides adequate funding for all State-level elected offices so as to be a meaningful alternative to purely privately-funded campaigns,
  - b. Offers candidates either a 6-to-1 or 8-to-1 match of public funds to private funds, and
  - c. Sets reasonable conditions for participation in the system, including on the use of funds, the return of unspent funds, limitations on private contributions, the use of “war chests” amassed before entering into the system, and requirements for providing voter information resources, including participating in public debates.
3. Promises to work with our elected representatives to secure the passage of such a bill.