WHEREAS, most public financing regimes provide additional taxpayer matching funds to qualifying candidates whose opponent chooses not to take public funds, thereby penalizing privately-funded candidates, campaigns, and their donors for exercising their rights of free speech and association; and,

WHEREAS, public financing regimes that restrict campaign contributions do not reduce the average expenditures of candidates and their campaigns, but do discourage or prevent independent citizen groups from speaking out; and,

WHEREAS, studies have shown that campaign contributions have no effect upon legislative behavior; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that state public financing regimes have not removed the influence of special interest money; and,

WHEREAS, the incumbency rate has remained unaffected in states that have instituted public financing regimes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) opposes taxpayer financed political campaigns.

Adopted by the Public Safety and Elections Task Force
December 6, 2008.

Approved by the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Board of Directors