COUNTY OF CHATHAM

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ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

Resolution In Support of Campaign Finance Reform

WHEREAS, spending on political campaigns for legislative and statewide races in North Carolina has skyrocketed in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the high costs of campaigning acts as a barrier to exclude many qualified candidates; and

WHEREAS, the increasing importance of private money in campaigns gives wealthy donors and special interests an unfair advantage over ordinary voters and diminishes the rule of "one person, one vote"; and

WHEREAS, big donors can use their advantage to win public policies that harm the public good and add substantial costs for taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Chatham, North Carolina that we do hereby urge the N.C. General Assembly and Governor to enact a Clean Election program similar to those in states as diverse as Arizona and Massachusetts. Such a program provides a competitive amount of campaign money to state candidates who voluntarily (a) take no significant private donations, (b) demonstrate broad support from registered voters in the relevant district, and (c) agree to strict campaign spending limits. Such a program should be funded by closing tax loopholes or other means that result in no tax increase for the average taxpayer.

Adopted this, the 21st day of February, 2000.

Rick Givens, Chair

Sandra B. Lee, Clerk to the Board

Chatham County Board of Commissioners