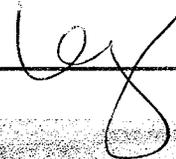


Every Voice is a national, nonpartisan organization working to reduce the power of big money in our politics and to raise the voices of everyday people. Our 100,000 active supporters strongly believe in creating a democracy that works for all of us, not just big campaign donors and they are committed to electing champions to all levels of government to achieve that goal.

Every Voice will use this questionnaire and your stated commitment to fixing our broken campaign finance system to guide our endorsement process.

Candidate Name: **Kathy Tran**

Chamber: **House of Delegates** District: **42nd**

Candidate Signature:  Date: 7/21/17

1. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that allowed wealthy special interests to spend unlimited amounts of money on elections?

Support

Oppose

2. Do you support meaningful contribution limits to reduce the power of wealthy corporations and special interests in our elections and will you prioritize working with your colleagues in the legislature to implement them?

Yes

No

3. To reduce the influence of big donors in our politics, will you commit to working to pass legislation such as small donor public financing that incentivizes more participation by everyday Virginians?

Yes

No

4. Our politics has become more divisive with attacks on specific groups, like immigrants, women, and religious minorities, and on some of the pillars of our democratic society, like the ability to protest and the free press. Will you pledge to stand up against these attacks and work to expand democracy and inclusion whenever possible?

Yes

No

5. In the space provided below, please share what steps you will take to engage the public on money in politics and to advance policies to reform Virginia's campaign finance system so that elected officials are more accountable to their constituents and less dependent on wealthy donors.

Money in politics has a corrosive effect on our democracy. Special interests like Virginia's energy monopolies exert outsized influence in Virginia policymaking at the cost of the public. It's with this understanding that I have pledged to never accept campaign contributions from Dominion and Appalachian Power. Not only does the influence of money in politics allow for elected officials to become beholden to special interests and high-dollar donors, but it also raises the barrier to entry to running for office by virtually requiring personal wealth or moneyed networks to compete in campaigns.

I would support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and will fight to impose contribution limits in Virginia, with the ultimate goal of public financing of elections. There should be a level playing field in access to resources for campaigns, in which candidates devote more of their time speaking with voters instead of donors, and the best ideas and values to represent the district win elections, not the most money.

It is imperative that elected leaders engage with the grassroots to empower causes like campaign finance reform. When elected leaders and the grassroots work together, not only are our representatives better able to serve the people who elected them, but the grassroots have the power to lobby other elected leaders, build coalitions, and demonstrate the electoral cost of regressive policies. The effect of protests and town halls throughout our history up to today should make clear to anyone the power of organizing and just showing up.

6. We understand that reforming the way that money influences politics is an essential but not the only way to improve elections. Please feel free to share any other policy proposals to improve how Virginia's democracy functions.

I would be the first Vietnamese American to win popularly elected office at any level in Virginia, and the first Asian American woman elected to Virginia state government. While I am excited by the possibility of reaching those milestones, we must recognize why they have not yet been achieved. The lack of representation of women and people of color in elected office stems from the systemic barriers to both running for office and exercising one's right to vote at all. Lowering these barriers is critical to safeguarding our democracy.

I will push for an independent and impartial commission to draw political district lines in Virginia, even if fair redistricting threatens Democratic seats. We should be working harder to recruit and train strong, progressive candidates that reflect their communities, not just rigging the system in our favor instead and calling it reform. I will also work to bring no-excuse early and absentee voting and same-day voter registration to Virginia, and to repeal discriminatory voter ID laws. I would also support a Constitutional amendment to automatically restore the voting rights of ex-offenders who have served their time. Further, I will advocate for additional federal funding for localities to update their increasingly obsolete voting equipment. Particularly in lower-income areas, lack of funding to replace old voting equipment is a frequent cause of long lines on Election Day.