

**Resolution 11-07: Resolution In Support Of the DISCLOSE Act and Any  
Legislation Supporting Voluntary Public Campaign  
Finance Reforms**

WHEREAS, one billion dollars have been raised for state election campaigns alone in the last 10 years in California; and

WHEREAS, 93% of state races are won by the candidate who spent the most money; and

WHEREAS, ‘one person, one vote’ is a statement of principle in that each person is of equal value; and

WHEREAS, the influence of money overpowers the influence of our votes; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental injustice of more money creating more access to policymakers leads to many other injustices that faith communities are constantly called to correct; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA social statement, *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, which guides our public speech and ethical actions, commits us to “work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless, and those who suffer, using [this church’s] power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace and care of creation.”; and

WHEREAS, democracy and equity will be enhanced when candidates can run for office regardless of access to wealth; and

WHEREAS, interest groups are able to hide behind ‘noble-sounding’ organization names, (i.e. Americans for Apple Pie, etc); and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* can be addressed by virtue of the proposed (statewide) DISCLOSE Act which will require political advertisers to disclose who actually is paying for the ads; and

WHEREAS, the DISCLOSE Act legislation is designed to enhance Disclaimers and Disclosures by making CEOs, other leaders, and wealthy individuals take responsibility for their ads, prevent out of state and foreign influence in determining the outcome of our elections, allow taxpayers, shareholders and members to know where their money goes, and inhibit a corporation’s ability to “sponsor” a candidate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod advocate support for the DISCLOSE Act.

Rev. Wayne Christiansen, Faith, Canoga Park

Rev. Ralph Midtlyng, All Saints, Sun Valley

Sharon Heck, St. Mark’s, Hacienda Heights

Judy Soyster, Faith, Canoga Park

Jack Biondillo, Hill Ave. Grace, Pasadena

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