



New York City  
Campaign Finance Board



BRENNAN  
CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE  
at New York University School of Law

## American Elections at the Crossroads | July 22, 2015

How do we restore voters' faith in elections and get them back to the polls?

**Greenberg Lounge – NYU School of Law**

**Vanderbilt Hall**

**40 Washington Square South**

**New York, NY 10012**

### [RSVP Here](#)

\*\* Attendees will receive 4.5 CLE credits in the Area of Professional Practice. Credit will be both transitional & non-transitional.

### **8:30 am–9:30 am: Breakfast**

### **9:30 am: Welcoming Remarks**

Fritz Schwarz  
Chief Counsel, Brennan Center for Justice  
Former Chair, NYC Campaign Finance Board

### **10:00 am–11:30 am: Small Donors vs. Super PACs**

How has the landscape changed for public financing of elections post-Citizens United? What role does public financing play in blunting corruption in this era of unlimited contributions to unregulated third-party spenders? Is the volume of spending causing voters to perceive our elections as spoiled or corrupted?

Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, Brennan Center Fellow, Professor, Stetson University  
Jay Costa, Executive Director, CounterPAC  
Brad Lander, New York City Council Member, Brooklyn  
Paul Ryan, Senior Counsel, Campaign Legal Center  
John Sarbanes, U.S. Congressman, Maryland

### **12:00 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch – Keynote speaker**

Ann Ravel  
Chair, Federal Election Commission

**1:45 pm–3:00 pm: Public Financing: What’s the ROI at the Voting Booth?**

What can we do to increase voter participation and civic engagement generally to ensure our government is formed “from the great body of the society”? While public financing programs like the one in New York City are designed to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption, can they also help to increase voter participation? How can we improve these systems to encourage greater civic participation?

Amy Loprest, Executive Director, NYC Campaign Finance Board  
Letitia James, New York City Public Advocate  
John Mollenkopf, Distinguished Professor, CUNY Graduate Center  
Tom Petri, former U.S. Congressman, Wisconsin  
Eric Ulrich, New York City Council Member, Queens

**3:15 pm–4:30 pm: Making Public Financing a Reality**

What lessons can we learn from states and cities that have public financing programs? What resources and conditions are needed to enact and launch a successful public financing program? How can state and local advocates and governments make a case for public financing when voters see their elections drowning in outside spending?

Lawrence Norden, Deputy Director, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice  
Jared DeMarinis, Director, Maryland State Board of Elections  
Karen Hobert Flynn, Senior Vice President for Strategy and Programs, Common Cause  
Michael Malbin, Executive Director, Campaign Finance Institute  
Mike Petro, Vice President, Committee for Economic Development

**4:30 pm– 5:00 pm: Closing Remarks**

Speaker: Rose Gill Hearn  
Chair, New York City Campaign Finance Board  
Former Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation

**5:00 pm–6:00 pm: Mixer**