

## **RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OPTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the cost of running for local office should be attainable to everyday citizens in any North Carolina community; and

**WHEREAS**, public financing programs that encourage small donations, voter participation, and voluntary spending limits are present at the federal and state level, including in North Carolina statewide judicial and executive branch elections; and

**WHEREAS**, public financing programs increase voter contact with candidates, and allow elections to be "voter-owned"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Chapel Hill successfully implemented a public financing pilot in 2009, with participating candidates winning more votes than any of their non-participating opponents; and

**WHEREAS**, a North Carolina city or town can only be implemented if State law is changed to give local governments the authority to pursue this option; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina House of Representatives passed HOUSE BILL 120, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, during the 2009 session,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City Council of the City of Asheville calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor to enact legislation that gives larger towns the authority to sponsor a public financing program for their elections, using local resources, with technical assistance from the State Board of Elections.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** such legislation should allow for the consideration of said financing by any qualifying municipality, but not mandate the implementation of such a plan.