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Clean Elections Initiative Filed With Lt. Governor

11:00am at the AK Division of Elections Office
2525 Gambell St., Suite 100 - Anchorage

Anchorage – Alaskans for Clean Elections and the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG) will turn in the initial application for a citizens' initiative to bring Clean Elections to Alaska today at the Division of Elections office in Anchorage on Friday.

“Clean Elections is a system of funding campaigns that takes special interest money out of politics and puts people back in charge of their democracy,” stated Tim June of Alaskans for Clean Elections. “Alaska needs electoral reform now to assure the public that their lawmakers aren't for sale.”

“We aren't dealing with just a few bad apples, the whole systems needs to change, and Clean Elections works,” stated AkPIRG Director Steve Cleary, referring to the recent bribery and corruption scandals that are rocking Alaska politics. A poll conducted in March for AkPIRG by Craciun Research showed that 69.8% of Alaskans surveyed favor Clean Elections.

Clean Elections are publicly-funded elections in which candidates gather a required number of signatures and small donations to qualify for public funding. Candidates also agree to strict spending limits in exchange for the funding. Clean Elections laws are working in other states and localities – from Maine to Arizona.

“Clean Elections removes the ability of special interest donors to call in favors for the big campaign contributions they made,” stated Tim June. “With Clean Elections, Alaskans can once again trust that elected officials are doing the work of the people, not the bidding of their large campaign contributors.”

Signing the initial initiative petition application were Alaskans from across the state including the mayors of Fairbanks and Juneau as well as former Governor Tony Knowles and two participants of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, Katie Hurley and George Rogers.

In July, Clean Elections supporters hope to begin collecting the over 23,000 signatures required to put the initiative on the ballot in 2008.

The complete Clean Elections initiative and the AkPIRG poll can be found at: www.akpirg.org