



DEMOCRACY COUNTS

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MEDIA RELEASE

New political donations law in Victoria an incremental but important win for democracy

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Democracy advocates welcome the passage of a new law in Victoria that will prevent this year's election campaign descending into a free-for-all of unregulated and opaque political donations.

Democracy Counts Campaign Director Tom Mooney welcomed reinstated caps on how much can be donated, removal of the nominated entity provision that favoured major parties and a ban on foreign donations, but said more needed to be done to ensure a level playing field.

"This is an incremental but important win for democracy in Victoria," Mr Mooney said.

"It ensures Victorians will be able to know who is funding the parties and candidates vying for their votes in November, and takes a step towards creating a more even playing field for all candidates."

"This is what happens when citizens and civil society speak up for democracy."

Mr Mooney said there was more work to do to make the system fairer and to encourage campaigns focused on policy and vision. Advocates are now turning their attention to a more comprehensive review of electoral laws that will occur after the election.

"The laws passed overnight are a good step, and the review after the election will give us the opportunity to consider what further steps we need to take to ensure a level playing field, including caps on campaign expenditure, fundraising events, and funding for independents for policy development."

Democracy Counts is a new nation-wide campaign involving organisations like the Centre for Public Integrity, Transparency International, and the Accountability Round Table which have been campaigning for urgent action to close campaign finance loopholes ahead of the Victorian election while pushing for broader reform.



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