



## Maggie's Civics Corner

### Lesson #33 – Campaign Finance

#### Maggie Says...

*Elections sure can be exciting! It looks like there is a whole lot that happens with an election. Television ads, campaigning, bumper stickers, and lawn signs – who pays for all this stuff? Where does the money for all this stuff come from?*

*Today's lesson is about Campaign Finance. Running a campaign sure is hard work. It takes months and lots of people to run a campaign for a big job like trying to become the next President. If I want to be President of all the dogs in America,*

*I'm going to need to have my own campaign. I'll need some other dogs to help me convince dogs all across America to vote for me. How am I going to pay my doggy friends to help me campaign?*

**Sticky Situation:** Let's say that your school decides to have an election. You and your friend both decide to run to be the President of your class. You have each got 5 dollars so that you can make a poster to show your classmates why they should vote for you. But then, the principal gives your friend an extra 100 dollars! Is this fair? What do you think will happen if your friend can spend more money than you in the election? What if instead each of you get to do a fundraiser for your campaign, like how your school does to raise money for the school. If one of you gets more money from your fundraiser, is that fair?

**Activity:** Try going to this website <https://www.followthemoney.org/> and clicking around on the different states to learn about how much money candidates are raising for their election campaigns. Try finding your state – how much money is going into campaign elections in your state? Afterwards, can you think about what all that money is going to be spent on? List a couple of different things you think an election campaign needs. Then, try talking to a family member to see what they think could be done with all that campaign money!

**Civics Resources:** Check out these other websites below for more information about campaign finance:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/us-gov-political-participation/us-gov-campaign-finance/a/lesson-summary-campaign-finance>

<https://www.fec.gov/>