
SENATE BILL 5034

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senator Kastama; by request of Public Disclosure Commission

Read first time 01/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to disclosure of and restrictions on campaign
2 funding; amending RCW 42.17.020, 42.17.103, 42.17.110, 42.17.510, and
3 42.17.530; reenacting and amending RCW 42.17.640; adding new sections
4 to chapter 42.17 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 42.17.505;
5 and providing an effective date.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **PART I - FINDINGS AND INTENT**

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

9 (1) Timely disclosure to voters of the identity and sources of
10 funding for electioneering communications is vitally important to the
11 integrity of state, local, and judicial elections.

12 (2) Electioneering communications that identify political
13 candidates for state, local, or judicial office and that are
14 distributed sixty days before an election for those offices are
15 intended to influence voters and the outcome of those elections.

16 (3) The state has a compelling interest in providing voters
17 information about electioneering communications in political campaigns
18 concerning candidates for state, local, or judicial office so that

1 voters can be fully informed as to the: (a) Source of support or
2 opposition to those candidates; and (b) identity of persons attempting
3 to influence the outcome of state, local, and judicial candidate
4 elections.

5 (4) Nondisclosure of financial information about advertising that
6 masquerades as relating only to issues and not to candidate campaigns
7 fosters corruption or the appearance of corruption. These consequences
8 can be substantially avoided by full disclosure of the identity and
9 funding of those persons paying for such advertising.

10 (5) The United States supreme court held in *McConnell et al. v.*
11 *Federal Elections Commission*, 540 U.S. 93, 124 S.Ct. 619, 157 L.Ed.2d
12 491 (2003) that speakers seeking to influence elections do not possess
13 an inviolable free speech right to engage in electioneering
14 communications regarding elections, including when issue advocacy is
15 the functional equivalent of express advocacy. Therefore, such
16 election campaign communications can be regulated and the source of
17 funding disclosed.

18 (6) The state also has a sufficiently compelling interest in
19 preventing corruption in political campaigns to justify and restore
20 contribution limits and restrictions on the use of soft money in RCW
21 42.17.640. Those interests include restoring restrictions on the use
22 of such funds for electioneering communications, as well as the laws
23 preventing circumvention of those limits and restrictions.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Based upon the findings in section 1 of this
25 act, this act is narrowly tailored to accomplish the following and is
26 intended to:

27 (1) Improve the disclosure to voters of information concerning
28 persons and entities seeking to influence state, local, and judicial
29 campaigns through reasonable and effective mechanisms, including
30 improving disclosure of the source, identity, and funding of
31 electioneering communications concerning state, local, and judicial
32 candidate campaigns;

33 (2) Regulate electioneering communications that mention state,
34 local, and judicial candidates and that are broadcast, mailed, erected,
35 distributed, or otherwise published right before the election so that
36 the public knows who is paying for such communications;

1 (3) Reenact and amend the contribution limits in RCW 42.17.640 (6)
2 and (14) and the restrictions on the use of soft money, including as
3 applied to electioneering communications, as those limits and
4 restrictions were in effect following the passage of chapter 2, Laws of
5 1993 (Initiative No. 134) and before the state supreme court decision
6 in *Washington State Republican Party v. Washington State Public*
7 *Disclosure Commission*, 141 Wn.2d 245, 4 P.3d 808 (2000). The
8 commission is authorized to fully restore the implementation of the
9 limits and restrictions of RCW 42.17.640 (6) and (14) in light of
10 *McConnell et al. v. Federal Elections Commission*, 540 U.S. 93, 124
11 S.Ct. 619, 157 L.Ed.2d 491 (2003). The United States supreme court
12 upheld the disclosure and regulation of electioneering communications
13 in political campaigns, including but not limited to issue advocacy
14 that is the functional equivalent of express advocacy;

15 (4) Authorize the commission to adopt rules to implement this act.

16 **PART II - ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS**

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A payment for or promise to pay for any
18 electioneering communication shall be reported to the commission by the
19 sponsor on forms the commission shall develop by rule to include, at a
20 minimum, the following information:

21 (a) Name and address of the sponsor;

22 (b) Source of funds for the communication, including:

23 (i) General treasury funds. For businesses, unions, groups,
24 associations, or other organizations using general treasury funds for
25 the communication, the name, address, occupation, and employer of each
26 person who has paid or is obligated to or has agreed to pay fees, dues,
27 or other payments exceeding two hundred fifty dollars in the aggregate
28 to such entity during the twelve-month period before the date of the
29 electioneering communication, except that for-profit businesses are not
30 required to identify their customers;

31 (ii) Special solicitations and other funds. For funding not
32 otherwise included in (b)(i) of this subsection, the name, address,
33 occupation, and employer of a person whose funds were used to pay for
34 the electioneering communication if such funds have exceeded two
35 hundred fifty dollars in the aggregate and, if the funds were provided

1 by another person who is not a political committee reporting under this
2 chapter or an individual, that other person shall report in accordance
3 with (b)(i) of this subsection; and

4 (iii) Any other source information required or exempted by the
5 commission by rule;

6 (c) Name and address of the person to whom an electioneering
7 communication related expenditure was made;

8 (d) A detailed description of each expenditure of more than one
9 hundred dollars;

10 (e) The date the expenditure was made and the date the
11 electioneering communication was first broadcast, transmitted, mailed,
12 erected, distributed, or otherwise published;

13 (f) The amount of the expenditure;

14 (g) The name of each candidate mentioned in the electioneering
15 communication and the office being sought by the candidate; and

16 (h) Any other information the commission may require or exempt by
17 rule.

18 (2) Electioneering communications shall be reported as follows:
19 The sponsor of an electioneering communication shall report to the
20 commission within twenty-four hours of, or on the first working day
21 after, the date the electioneering communication is broadcast,
22 transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or otherwise published.

23 (3) Electioneering communications shall be reported electronically
24 by the sponsor using software provided or approved by the commission.
25 The commission may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis for a
26 sponsor who lacks the technological ability to file reports using the
27 electronic means provided or approved by the commission.

28 (4) All persons required to report under RCW 42.17.065, 42.17.080,
29 42.17.090, and 42.17.100 are subject to the requirements of this
30 section, although the commission may determine by rule that persons
31 filing according to those sections may be exempt from reporting some of
32 the information otherwise required by this section. The commission may
33 determine that reports filed pursuant to this section also satisfy the
34 requirements of RCW 42.17.100 and 42.17.103.

35 (5) Failure of any sponsor to report electronically under this
36 section shall be a violation of this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) An electioneering communication made by
2 a person in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the
3 request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized
4 committee, or their agents is a contribution to the candidate.

5 (2) An electioneering communication made by a person in
6 cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or
7 suggestion of, a political committee or its agents is a contribution to
8 the political committee.

9 (3) If an electioneering communication is not a contribution
10 pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the sponsor shall
11 file an affidavit or declaration so stating at the time the sponsor is
12 required to report the electioneering communication expense under
13 section 3 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The sponsor of an electioneering
15 communication shall preserve all financial records relating to the
16 communication, including books of account, bills, receipts, contributor
17 information, and ledgers, for not less than five calendar years
18 following the year in which the communication was broadcast,
19 transmitted, mailed, erected, or otherwise published.

20 (2) All reports filed under section 3 of this act shall be
21 certified as correct by the sponsor. If the sponsor is an individual
22 using his or her own funds to pay for the communication, the
23 certification shall be signed by the individual. If the sponsor is a
24 political committee, the certification shall be signed by the committee
25 treasurer. If the sponsor is another entity, the certification shall
26 be signed by the individual responsible for authorizing the expenditure
27 on the entity's behalf.

28 **PART III - AMENDMENTS TO AND REENACTMENT OF CURRENT LAWS**

29 **Sec. 6.** RCW 42.17.020 and 2002 c 75 s 1 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
32 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

33 (1) "Actual malice" means to act with knowledge of falsity or with
34 reckless disregard as to truth or falsity.

1 (2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.
2 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,
3 bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency"
4 includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-
5 municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office,
6 department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof, or
7 other local public agency.

8 ~~((+2))~~ (3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee
9 authorized by a candidate, or by the public official against whom
10 recall charges have been filed, to accept contributions or make
11 expenditures on behalf of the candidate or public official.

12 ~~((+3))~~ (4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by
13 RCW ~~((29-01-110))~~ 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum
14 proposition proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any
15 municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other voting
16 constituency from and after the time when the proposition has been
17 initially filed with the appropriate election officer of that
18 constituency prior to its circulation for signatures.

19 ~~((+4))~~ (5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial,
20 economic, or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial,
21 proprietary, financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

22 ~~((+5))~~ (6) "Bona fide political party" means:

23 (a) An organization that has filed a valid certificate of
24 nomination with the secretary of state under chapter ~~((29-24))~~ 29A.20
25 RCW;

26 (b) The governing body of the state organization of a major
27 political party, as defined in RCW ~~((29-01-090))~~ 29A.04.086, that is
28 the body authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise
29 authority on behalf of the state party; or

30 (c) The county central committee or legislative district committee
31 of a major political party. There may be only one legislative district
32 committee for each party in each legislative district.

33 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Depository" means a bank designated by a candidate or
34 political committee pursuant to RCW 42.17.050.

35 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals
36 appointed by a candidate or political committee, pursuant to RCW
37 42.17.050, to perform the duties specified in that section.

1 (~~(8)~~) (9) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination
2 for election or election to public office. An individual seeks
3 nomination or election when he or she first:

4 (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves space
5 or facilities with intent to promote his or her candidacy for office;

6 (b) Announces publicly or files for office;

7 (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to
8 promote his or her candidacy; or

9 (d) Gives his or her consent to another person to take on behalf of
10 the individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection.

11 (~~(9)~~) (10) "Caucus political committee" means a political
12 committee organized and maintained by the members of a major political
13 party in the state senate or state house of representatives.

14 (~~(10)~~) (11) "Commercial advertiser" means any person who sells
15 the service of communicating messages or producing printed material for
16 broadcast or distribution to the general public or segments of the
17 general public whether through the use of newspapers, magazines,
18 television and radio stations, billboard companies, direct mail
19 advertising companies, printing companies, or otherwise.

20 (~~(11)~~) (12) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW
21 42.17.350.

22 (~~(12)~~) (13) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower
23 meaning, includes payment in any form for real or personal property or
24 services of any kind: PROVIDED, That for the purpose of compliance
25 with RCW 42.17.241, the term "compensation" shall not include per diem
26 allowances or other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse
27 a public official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged
28 in the official business of the governmental entity.

29 (~~(13)~~) (14) "Continuing political committee" means a political
30 committee that is an organization of continuing existence not
31 established in anticipation of any particular election campaign.

32 (~~(14)~~) (15)(a) "Contribution" includes:

33 (i) A loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of
34 indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds
35 between political committees, or anything of value, including personal
36 and professional services for less than full consideration;

37 (ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation, consultation,

1 or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a
2 political committee, or their agents;

3 (iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination, distribution,
4 or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast, written, graphic,
5 or other form of political advertising or electioneering communication
6 prepared by a candidate, a political committee, or its authorized
7 agent;

8 (iv) Sums paid for tickets to fund-raising events such as dinners
9 and parties, except for the actual cost of the consumables furnished at
10 the event.

11 (b) "Contribution" does not include:

12 (i) Standard interest on money deposited in a political committee's
13 account;

14 (ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

15 (iii) A contribution received by a candidate or political committee
16 that is returned to the contributor within five business days of the
17 date on which it is received by the candidate or political committee;

18 (iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly
19 scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the general
20 public, that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business
21 is that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a
22 political committee;

23 (v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the
24 members of or contributors to a political party organization or
25 political committee, or to the officers, management staff, or
26 stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members
27 of a labor organization or other membership organization;

28 (vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly
29 performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses
30 personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of
31 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer services,"
32 for the purposes of this section, means services or labor for which the
33 individual is not compensated by any person;

34 (vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or
35 window signs displayed on a person's own property or property occupied
36 by a person. However, a facility used for such political advertising
37 for which a rental charge is normally made must be reported as an in-

1 kind contribution and counts towards any applicable contribution limit
2 of the person providing the facility;

3 (viii) Legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of:

4 (A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person
5 paying for the services is the regular employer of the person rendering
6 such services; or

7 (B) A candidate or an authorized committee if the person paying for
8 the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering the
9 services and if the services are solely for the purpose of ensuring
10 compliance with state election or public disclosure laws.

11 (c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed to
12 have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the
13 contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than
14 their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or
15 political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution
16 must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value
17 and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

18 ~~((+15+))~~ (16) "Elected official" means any person elected at a
19 general or special election to any public office, and any person
20 appointed to fill a vacancy in any such office.

21 ~~((+16+))~~ (17) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special
22 election for public office and any election in which a ballot
23 proposition is submitted to the voters: PROVIDED, That an election in
24 which the qualifications for voting include other than those
25 requirements set forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the
26 Constitution of the state of Washington shall not be considered an
27 election for purposes of this chapter.

28 ~~((+17+))~~ (18) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of
29 or in opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any
30 campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.

31 ~~((+18+))~~ (19) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the
32 first day of December after the date of the last previous general
33 election for the office that the candidate seeks and ending on November
34 30th after the next election for the office. In the case of a special
35 election to fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the
36 period beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on November
37 30th after the special election.

1 ~~((19))~~ (20) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast,
2 cable, or satellite television or radio transmission, United States
3 postal service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that:

4 (a) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or judicial
5 office either by specifically naming the candidate, or identifying the
6 candidate without using the candidate's name;

7 (b) Is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or
8 otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that
9 office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election;
10 and

11 (c) Either alone, or in combination with one or more similar or
12 substantially similar communications by the same sponsor during the
13 sixty days before an election, has a fair market value of five thousand
14 dollars or more.

15 (21) "Electioneering communication" does not include:

16 (a) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a
17 candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when
18 the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising
19 appearing at least twelve months preceding his or her becoming a
20 candidate;

21 (b) Advertising for candidate debates or forums when the
22 advertising is paid for by or on behalf of the debate or forum sponsor,
23 so long as two or more candidates for the same position have been
24 invited to participate in the debate or forum;

25 (c) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly
26 scheduled news medium that is:

27 (i) Of primary interest to the general public;

28 (ii) In a news medium that is a commercial business venture; and

29 (iii) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political
30 committee;

31 (d) Slate cards and sample ballots;

32 (e) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works
33 (i) written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract
34 for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming
35 a candidate, or (ii) written about a candidate;

36 (f) Public service announcements;

37 (g) A mailed internal political communication primarily limited to
38 the members of or contributors to a political party organization or

1 political committee, or to the officers, management staff, or
2 stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members
3 of a labor organization or other membership organization;

4 (h) An expenditure by or contribution to the authorized committee
5 of a candidate for state, local, or judicial office; or

6 (i) Any other communication exempted by the commission through rule
7 consistent with the intent of this chapter.

8 (22) "Expenditure" includes a payment, contribution, subscription,
9 distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of
10 value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement, whether or not
11 legally enforceable, to make an expenditure. The term "expenditure"
12 also includes a promise to pay, a payment, or a transfer of anything of
13 value in exchange for goods, services, property, facilities, or
14 anything of value for the purpose of assisting, benefiting, or honoring
15 any public official or candidate, or assisting in furthering or
16 opposing any election campaign. For the purposes of this chapter,
17 agreements to make expenditures, contracts, and promises to pay may be
18 reported as estimated obligations until actual payment is made. The
19 term "expenditure" shall not include the partial or complete repayment
20 by a candidate or political committee of the principal of a loan, the
21 receipt of which loan has been properly reported.

22 ~~((+20))~~ (23) "Final report" means the report described as a final
23 report in RCW 42.17.080(2).

24 ~~((+21))~~ (24) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640
25 means the election that results in the election of a person to a state
26 office. It does not include a primary.

27 ~~((+22))~~ (25) "Gift," is as defined in RCW 42.52.010.

28 ~~((+23))~~ (26) "Immediate family" includes the spouse, dependent
29 children, and other dependent relatives, if living in the household.
30 For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, "immediate family"
31 means an individual's spouse, and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,
32 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half sister
33 of the individual and the spouse of any such person and a child,
34 stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, half
35 brother, sister, or half sister of the individual's spouse and the
36 spouse of any such person.

37 ~~((+24))~~ (27) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present
38 possession of an elected office.

1 (28) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that has each
2 of the following elements:

3 (a) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for
4 office by a person who is not (i) a candidate for that office, (ii) an
5 authorized committee of that candidate for that office, (iii) a person
6 who has received the candidate's encouragement or approval to make the
7 expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political
8 advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any
9 other candidate or candidates for that office, or (iv) a person with
10 whom the candidate has collaborated for the purpose of making the
11 expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political
12 advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any
13 other candidate or candidates for that office;

14 (b) The expenditure pays in whole or in part for political
15 advertising that either specifically names the candidate supported or
16 opposed, or clearly and beyond any doubt identifies the candidate
17 without using the candidate's name; and

18 (c) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another
19 expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or
20 opposition to that candidate, has a value of five hundred dollars or
21 more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under five hundred
22 dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative
23 value is five hundred dollars or more.

24 ~~((+25+))~~ (29)(a) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits
25 a contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless
26 the contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family as
27 defined for purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, or an
28 association to which the individual belongs.

29 (b) A treasurer or a candidate is not an intermediary for purposes
30 of the committee that the treasurer or candidate serves.

31 (c) A professional fund-raiser is not an intermediary if the fund-
32 raiser is compensated for fund-raising services at the usual and
33 customary rate.

34 (d) A volunteer hosting a fund-raising event at the individual's
35 home is not an intermediary for purposes of that event.

36 ~~((+26+))~~ (30) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions,
37 amendments, nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in
38 either house of the state legislature, and includes any other matter

1 that may be the subject of action by either house or any committee of
2 the legislature and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both
3 houses, are pending approval by the governor.

4 ~~((+27))~~ (31) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to
5 influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature
6 of the state of Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule,
7 standard, rate, or other legislative enactment of any state agency
8 under the state Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.
9 Neither "lobby" nor "lobbying" includes an association's or other
10 organization's act of communicating with the members of that
11 association or organization.

12 ~~((+28))~~ (32) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either in
13 his or her own or another's behalf.

14 ~~((+29))~~ (33) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by
15 whom a lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom he or she is
16 compensated for acting as a lobbyist.

17 ~~((+30))~~ (34) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint
18 venture, public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or
19 local governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate,
20 committee, political committee, political party, executive committee
21 thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however
22 organized.

23 ~~((+31))~~ (35) "Person in interest" means the person who is the
24 subject of a record or any representative designated by that person,
25 except that if that person is under a legal disability, the term
26 "person in interest" means and includes the parent or duly appointed
27 legal representative.

28 ~~((+32))~~ (36) "Political advertising" includes any advertising
29 displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles,
30 tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, or other
31 means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing,
32 directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or
33 opposition in any election campaign.

34 ~~((+33))~~ (37) "Political committee" means any person (except a
35 candidate or an individual dealing with his or her own funds or
36 property) having the expectation of receiving contributions or making
37 expenditures in support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any
38 ballot proposition.

1 (~~(34)~~) (38) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 means the
2 procedure for nominating a candidate to state office under chapter
3 (~~(29.18 or 29.21)~~) 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that
4 uses, in large measure, the procedures established in chapter (~~(29.18~~
5 ~~or 29.21)~~) 29A.52 RCW.

6 (~~(35)~~) (39) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial,
7 county, city, town, school district, port district, special district,
8 or other state political subdivision elective office.

9 (~~(36)~~) (40) "Public record" includes any writing containing
10 information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of
11 any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or
12 retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or
13 characteristics. For the office of the secretary of the senate and the
14 office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives, public
15 records means legislative records as defined in RCW 40.14.100 and also
16 means the following: All budget and financial records; personnel
17 leave, travel, and payroll records; records of legislative sessions;
18 reports submitted to the legislature; and any other record designated
19 a public record by any official action of the senate or the house of
20 representatives.

21 (~~(37)~~) (41) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning
22 on the date of the filing of recall charges under RCW (~~(29.82.015)~~)
23 29A.56.120 and ending thirty days after the recall election.

24 (~~(38)~~) (42) "Sponsor of an electioneering communications,
25 independent expenditures, or political advertising" means the person
26 paying for the electioneering communication, independent expenditure,
27 or political advertising. If a person acts as an agent for another or
28 is reimbursed by another for the payment, the original source of the
29 payment is the sponsor.

30 (43) "State legislative office" means the office of a member of the
31 state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state
32 senate.

33 (~~(39)~~) (44) "State office" means state legislative office or the
34 office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney
35 general, commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner,
36 superintendent of public instruction, state auditor, or state
37 treasurer.

1 (~~(40)~~) (45) "State official" means a person who holds a state
2 office.

3 (~~(41)~~) (46) "Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political
4 committee or candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the
5 possession or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to the
6 election for which the contributions were received, and that are in
7 excess of the amount necessary to pay remaining debts incurred by the
8 committee or candidate prior to that election. In the case of a
9 continuing political committee, "surplus funds" mean those
10 contributions remaining in the possession or control of the committee
11 that are in excess of the amount necessary to pay all remaining debts
12 when it makes its final report under RCW 42.17.065.

13 (~~(42)~~) (47) "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing,
14 photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any
15 form of communication or representation, including, but not limited to,
16 letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combination thereof,
17 and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and
18 prints, motion picture, film and video recordings, magnetic or punched
19 cards, discs, drums, diskettes, sound recordings, and other documents
20 including existing data compilations from which information may be
21 obtained or translated.

22 As used in this chapter, the singular shall take the plural and any
23 gender, the other, as the context requires.

24 **Sec. 7.** RCW 42.17.103 and 2001 c 54 s 1 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) The sponsor of political advertising who, within twenty-one
27 days of an election, publishes, mails, or otherwise presents to the
28 public political advertising supporting or opposing a candidate or
29 ballot proposition that qualifies as an independent expenditure with a
30 fair market value of one thousand dollars or more shall deliver, either
31 electronically or in written form, a special report to the commission
32 within twenty-four hours of, or on the first working day after, the
33 date the political advertising is first published, mailed, or otherwise
34 presented to the public.

35 (2) If a sponsor is required to file a special report under this
36 section, the sponsor shall also deliver to the commission within the
37 delivery period established in subsection (1) of this section a special

1 report for each subsequent independent expenditure of any size
2 supporting or opposing the same candidate who was the subject of the
3 previous independent expenditure, supporting or opposing that
4 candidate's opponent, or supporting or opposing the same ballot
5 proposition that was the subject of the previous independent
6 expenditure.

7 (3) The special report must include at least:
8 (a) The name and address of the person making the expenditure;
9 (b) The name and address of the person to whom the expenditure was
10 made;

11 (c) A detailed description of the expenditure;
12 (d) The date the expenditure was made and the date the political
13 advertising was first published or otherwise presented to the public;

14 (e) The amount of the expenditure;
15 (f) The name of the candidate supported or opposed by the
16 expenditure, the office being sought by the candidate, and whether the
17 expenditure supports or opposes the candidate; or the name of the
18 ballot proposition supported or opposed by the expenditure and whether
19 the expenditure supports or opposes the ballot proposition; and

20 (g) Any other information the commission may require by rule.

21 (4) All persons required to report under RCW 42.17.065, 42.17.080,
22 42.17.090, (~~and~~) 42.17.100, and section 3 of this act are subject to
23 the requirements of this section. The commission may determine that
24 reports filed pursuant to this section also satisfy the requirements of
25 RCW 42.17.100.

26 (5) The sponsor of independent expenditures supporting a candidate
27 or opposing that candidate's opponent required to report under this
28 section shall file with each required report an affidavit or
29 declaration of the person responsible for making the independent
30 expenditure that the expenditure was not made in cooperation,
31 consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, the
32 candidate, the candidate's authorized committee, or the candidate's
33 agent, or with the encouragement or approval of the candidate, the
34 candidate's authorized committee, or the candidate's agent.

35 **Sec. 8.** RCW 42.17.110 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 112 s 5 are each
36 amended to read as follows:

37 (1) Each commercial advertiser who has accepted or provided

1 political advertising or electioneering communications during the
2 election campaign shall maintain open for public inspection during the
3 campaign and for a period of no less than three years after the date of
4 the applicable election, during normal business hours, documents and
5 books of account which shall specify:

6 (a) The names and addresses of persons from whom it accepted
7 political advertising or electioneering communications;

8 (b) The exact nature and extent of the ~~((advertising))~~ services
9 rendered; and

10 (c) The consideration and the manner of paying that consideration
11 for such services.

12 (2) Each commercial advertiser which must comply with subsection
13 (1) of this section shall deliver to the commission, upon its request,
14 copies of such information as must be maintained open for public
15 inspection pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

16 **Sec. 9.** RCW 42.17.510 and 1995 c 397 s 19 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) All written political advertising, whether relating to
19 candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the sponsor's name and
20 address. All radio and television political advertising, whether
21 relating to candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the
22 sponsor's name. The use of an assumed name for the sponsor of
23 electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political
24 advertising shall be unlawful. ~~((The party with which a candidate~~
25 ~~files))~~ For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party or
26 independent preference on the declaration of candidacy, that party or
27 independent designation shall be clearly identified in electioneering
28 communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising
29 ~~((for partisan office))~~.

30 (2) In addition to the materials required by subsection (1) of this
31 section, all political advertising undertaken as an independent
32 expenditure by a person or entity other than a party organization, and
33 all electioneering communications, must include the following statement
34 ~~((on))~~ as part of the communication "NOTICE TO VOTERS (Required by
35 law): This advertisement is not authorized or approved by any
36 candidate. It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)." If the
37 advertisement undertaken as an independent expenditure or

1 electioneering communication is undertaken by a nonindividual other
2 than a party organization, then the following notation must also be
3 included: "Top Five Contributors," followed by a listing of the names
4 of the five persons or entities making the largest contributions
5 reportable under this chapter during the twelve-month period before the
6 date of the advertisement or communication.

7 (3) The statements and listings of contributors required by
8 subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall:

9 (a) Appear on the first page or fold of the written advertisement
10 or communication in at least ten-point type, or in type at least ten
11 percent of the largest size type used in a written advertisement or
12 communication directed at more than one voter, such as a billboard or
13 poster, whichever is larger;

14 (b) Not be subject to the half-tone or screening process;

15 (c) Be set apart from any other printed matter; and

16 (d) Be clearly spoken on any broadcast advertisement or
17 communication.

18 (4) Political yard signs are exempt from the requirement of
19 subsections (1) and (2) of this section that the name and address of
20 the sponsor of political advertising be listed on the advertising. In
21 addition, the public disclosure commission shall, by rule, exempt from
22 the identification requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this
23 section forms of political advertising such as campaign buttons,
24 balloons, pens, pencils, sky-writing, inscriptions, and other forms of
25 advertising where identification is impractical.

26 (5) For the purposes of this section, "yard sign" means any outdoor
27 sign with dimensions no greater than eight feet by four feet.

28 **Sec. 10.** RCW 42.17.530 and 1999 c 304 s 2 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (1) It is a violation of this chapter for a person to sponsor with
31 actual malice:

32 (a) Political advertising or an electioneering communication that
33 contains a false statement of material fact about a candidate for
34 public office. However, this subsection (1)(a) does not apply to
35 statements made by a candidate or the candidate's agent about the
36 candidate himself or herself;

1 (b) Political advertising or an electioneering communication that
2 falsely represents that a candidate is the incumbent for the office
3 sought when in fact the candidate is not the incumbent;

4 (c) Political advertising or an electioneering communication that
5 makes either directly or indirectly, a false claim stating or implying
6 the support or endorsement of any person or organization when in fact
7 the candidate does not have such support or endorsement.

8 (2) Any violation of this section shall be proven by clear and
9 convincing evidence.

10 **Sec. 11.** RCW 42.17.640 and 2001 c 208 s 1 are each reenacted and
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (1) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
13 political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a state
14 legislative office that in the aggregate exceed (~~five~~) seven hundred
15 dollars or to a candidate for a state office other than a state
16 legislative office that in the aggregate exceed one thousand four
17 hundred dollars for each election in which the candidate is on the
18 ballot or appears as a write-in candidate. Contributions made with
19 respect to a primary may not be made after the date of the primary.
20 However, contributions to a candidate or a candidate's authorized
21 committee may be made with respect to a primary until thirty days after
22 the primary, subject to the following limitations: (a) The candidate
23 lost the primary; (b) the candidate's authorized committee has
24 insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding as of the date of the
25 primary; and (c) the contributions may only be raised and spent to
26 satisfy the outstanding debt. Contributions made with respect to a
27 general election may not be made after the final day of the applicable
28 election cycle.

29 (2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
30 political committee, may make contributions to a state official against
31 whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political committee having
32 the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the
33 state official, during a recall campaign that in the aggregate exceed
34 (~~five~~) seven hundred dollars if for a state legislative office or one
35 thousand four hundred dollars if for a state office other than a state
36 legislative office.

1 (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, no bona fide
2 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
3 a candidate during an election cycle that in the aggregate exceed (i)
4 (~~(fifty)~~) seventy cents multiplied by the number of eligible registered
5 voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the
6 contributor is a caucus political committee or the governing body of a
7 state organization, or (ii) (~~(twenty-five)~~) thirty-five cents
8 multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from
9 which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county central
10 committee or a legislative district committee.

11 (b) No candidate may accept contributions from a county central
12 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
13 that when combined with contributions from other county central
14 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
15 exceed (~~(twenty-five)~~) thirty-five cents times the number of registered
16 voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

17 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide
18 political party or caucus political committee may make contributions to
19 a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a
20 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
21 support of the state official, during a recall campaign that in the
22 aggregate exceed (i) (~~(fifty)~~) seventy cents multiplied by the number
23 of eligible registered voters in the jurisdiction entitled to recall
24 the state official if the contributor is a caucus political committee
25 or the governing body of a state organization, or (ii) (~~(twenty-five)~~)
26 thirty-five cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the
27 jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the contributor is
28 a county central committee or a legislative district committee.

29 (b) No state official against whom recall charges have been filed,
30 no authorized committee of the official, and no political committee
31 having the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall
32 of a state official may accept contributions from a county central
33 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
34 that when combined with contributions from other county central
35 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
36 exceed (~~(twenty-five)~~) thirty-five cents multiplied by the number of
37 registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is
38 elected.

1 (5) For purposes of determining contribution limits under
2 subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the number of eligible
3 registered voters in a jurisdiction is the number at the time of the
4 most recent general election in the jurisdiction.

5 (6) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, no
6 person other than an individual, bona fide political party, or caucus
7 political committee may make contributions reportable under this
8 chapter to a caucus political committee that in the aggregate exceed
9 (~~five~~) seven hundred dollars in a calendar year or to a bona fide
10 political party that in the aggregate exceed (~~two~~) three thousand
11 five hundred dollars in a calendar year. This subsection does not
12 apply to loans made in the ordinary course of business.

13 (7) For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, a
14 contribution to the authorized political committee of a candidate, or
15 of a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, is
16 considered to be a contribution to the candidate or state official.

17 (8) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
18 recall election concerning a state office is considered to be a
19 contribution during that recall campaign if the contribution is used to
20 pay a debt or obligation incurred to influence the outcome of that
21 recall campaign.

22 (9) The contributions allowed by subsection (2) of this section are
23 in addition to those allowed by subsection (1) of this section, and the
24 contributions allowed by subsection (4) of this section are in addition
25 to those allowed by subsection (3) of this section.

26 (10) RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a special election
27 conducted to fill a vacancy in a state office. However, the
28 contributions made to a candidate or received by a candidate for a
29 primary or special election conducted to fill such a vacancy shall not
30 be counted toward any of the limitations that apply to the candidate or
31 to contributions made to the candidate for any other primary or
32 election.

33 (11) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
34 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,
35 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington
36 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions
37 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in
38 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make

1 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, to a state
2 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
3 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
4 the recall of the official. This subsection does not apply to loans
5 made in the ordinary course of business.

6 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
7 county central committee or legislative district committee may make
8 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, state
9 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or political
10 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
11 the recall of a state official if the county central committee or
12 legislative district committee is outside of the jurisdiction entitled
13 to elect the candidate or recall the state official.

14 (13) No person may accept contributions that exceed the
15 contribution limitations provided in this section.

16 (14) The following contributions are exempt from the contribution
17 limits of this section:

18 (a) An expenditure or contribution earmarked for voter
19 registration, for absentee ballot information, for precinct caucuses,
20 for get-out-the-vote campaigns, for precinct judges or inspectors, for
21 sample ballots, or for ballot counting, all without promotion of or
22 political advertising for individual candidates; or

23 (b) An expenditure by a political committee for its own internal
24 organization or fund raising without direct association with individual
25 candidates.

26 **PART IV - TECHNICAL PROVISIONS**

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** RCW 42.17.505 (Definitions) and 1988 c 199
28 s 1 are each repealed.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Part headings used in this act are not any
30 part of the law.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** (1) Sections 1 through 5 of this act are
32 each added to chapter 42.17 RCW to be codified with the subchapter
33 heading of "Reporting of Electioneering Communications."

1 (2) The code reviser must change the subchapter heading "Political
2 Advertising" to "Political Advertising and Electioneering
3 Communications" in chapter 42.17 RCW.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** If any provision of this act or its
5 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
6 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
7 persons or circumstances is not affected.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** This act takes effect January 1, 2006.

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