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HOUSE BILL 2047

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representative McDermott

Read first time 02/06/2007. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to reporting requirements for statewide ballot  
2 measure committees; amending RCW 42.17.080 and 42.17.020; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 42.17 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 Political committees are required to report contributions and  
8 expenditures in an accelerated manner close to elections in which they  
9 participate. However, the weeks leading up to the deadline for  
10 submission of petition signatures for initiatives and referenda also  
11 are important with respect to disclosure of contributions and  
12 expenditures related to ballot measures. The deadline for submitting  
13 signatures for initiatives to the people is four months prior to the  
14 election at which they will be voted upon. The deadline for submitting  
15 signatures for a referendum measure ordering that any act or part of an  
16 act passed by the legislature be referred to the people is ninety days  
17 after the final adjournment of the legislative session at which the act  
18 was passed. The legislature finds that accelerated reporting of  
19 contributions and expenditures is a crucial disclosure component that

1 affords the public full access to information concerning the financing  
2 of political campaigns at a time when the information is especially  
3 useful.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17.080 and 2006 c 344 s 30 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) On the day the treasurer is designated, each candidate or  
7 political committee shall file with the commission and the county  
8 auditor or elections officer of the county in which the candidate  
9 resides, or in the case of a political committee, the county in which  
10 the treasurer resides, in addition to any statement of organization  
11 required under RCW 42.17.040 or 42.17.050, a report of all  
12 contributions received and expenditures made prior to that date, if  
13 any.

14 (2) At the following intervals each treasurer shall file with the  
15 commission and the county auditor or elections officer of the county in  
16 which the candidate resides, or in the case of a political committee,  
17 the county in which the committee maintains its office or headquarters,  
18 and if there is no office or headquarters then in the county in which  
19 the treasurer resides, a report containing the information required by  
20 RCW 42.17.090:

21 (a) On the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately  
22 preceding the date on which the election is held; and

23 (b) On the tenth day of the first month after the election; and

24 (c) On the tenth day of each month in which no other reports are  
25 required to be filed under this section: PROVIDED, That such report  
26 shall only be filed if the committee has received a contribution or  
27 made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month and either the  
28 total contributions received or total expenditures made since the last  
29 such report exceed two hundred dollars.

30 When there is no outstanding debt or obligation, and the campaign  
31 fund is closed, and the campaign is concluded in all respects, and in  
32 the case of a political committee, the committee has ceased to function  
33 and has dissolved, the treasurer shall file a final report. Upon  
34 submitting a final report, the duties of the treasurer shall cease and  
35 there shall be no obligation to make any further reports.

36 The report filed twenty-one days before the election shall report  
37 all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of the

1 fifth business day before the date of the report. The report filed  
2 seven days before the election shall report all contributions received  
3 and expenditures made as of the end of the one business day before the  
4 date of the report. Reports filed on the tenth day of the month shall  
5 report all contributions received and expenditures made from the  
6 closing date of the last report filed through the last day of the month  
7 preceding the date of the current report.

8 (3) In addition to the other reporting provisions of this section,  
9 the treasurer of a statewide ballot measure committee shall file with  
10 the commission a report containing the information required by RCW  
11 42.17.090 on the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately  
12 preceding the final date on which a signature petition for an  
13 initiative to the people or a referendum measure is due to the  
14 secretary of state.

15 The report filed twenty-one days before the petitions are due shall  
16 report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end  
17 of the fifth business day before the date of the report. The report  
18 filed seven days before the petitions are due shall report all  
19 contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of the one  
20 business day before the date of the report.

21 (4) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month  
22 preceding the date on which the special election is held, or for the  
23 period beginning the first day of the fifth month before the date on  
24 which the general election is held, and ending on the date of that  
25 special or general election, each Monday the treasurer shall file with  
26 the commission and the appropriate county elections officer a report of  
27 each bank deposit made during the previous seven calendar days. The  
28 report shall contain the name of each person contributing the funds so  
29 deposited and the amount contributed by each person. However,  
30 contributions of no more than twenty-five dollars in the aggregate from  
31 any one person may be deposited without identifying the contributor.  
32 A copy of the report shall be retained by the treasurer for his or her  
33 records. In the event of deposits made by a deputy treasurer, the copy  
34 shall be forwarded to the treasurer for his or her records. Each  
35 report shall be certified as correct by the treasurer or deputy  
36 treasurer making the deposit.

37 ~~((4))~~ (5) If a city requires that candidates or committees for

1 city offices file reports with a city agency, the candidate or  
2 treasurer so filing need not also file the report with the county  
3 auditor or elections officer.

4 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The treasurer or candidate shall maintain books of  
5 account accurately reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a  
6 current basis within five business days of receipt or expenditure.  
7 During the eight days immediately preceding the date of the election  
8 the books of account shall be kept current within one business day. As  
9 specified in the committee's statement of organization filed under RCW  
10 42.17.040, the books of account must be open for public inspection by  
11 appointment at the designated place for inspections between 8:00 a.m.  
12 and 8:00 p.m. on any day from the eighth day immediately before the  
13 election through the day immediately before the election, other than  
14 Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday. It is a violation of this  
15 chapter for a candidate or political committee to refuse to allow and  
16 keep an appointment for an inspection to be conducted during these  
17 authorized times and days. The appointment must be allowed at an  
18 authorized time and day for such inspections that is within twenty-four  
19 hours of the time and day that is requested for the inspection.

20 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The treasurer or candidate shall preserve books of  
21 account, bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the  
22 campaign or political committee for not less than five calendar years  
23 following the year during which the transaction occurred.

24 ~~((+7))~~ (8) All reports filed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of  
25 this section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and the  
26 treasurer.

27 ~~((+8))~~ (9) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section  
28 shall be readily available for public inspection for at least two  
29 consecutive hours Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays,  
30 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., as specified in the committee's  
31 statement of organization filed pursuant to RCW 42.17.040, at the  
32 principal headquarters or, if there is no headquarters, at the address  
33 of the treasurer or such other place as may be authorized by the  
34 commission.

35 ~~((+9))~~ (10) After January 1, 2002, a report that is filed with the  
36 commission electronically need not also be filed with the county  
37 auditor or elections officer.

1       (~~(10)~~) (11) The commission shall adopt administrative rules  
2 establishing requirements for filer participation in any system  
3 designed and implemented by the commission for the electronic filing of  
4 reports.

5       **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.17.020 and 2005 c 445 s 6 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7       The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

11       (2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.  
12 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,  
13 bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency"  
14 includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-  
15 municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office,  
16 department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof, or  
17 other local public agency.

18       (3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee authorized  
19 by a candidate, or by the public official against whom recall charges  
20 have been filed, to accept contributions or make expenditures on behalf  
21 of the candidate or public official.

22       (4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by RCW  
23 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum proposition  
24 proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any municipal  
25 corporation, political subdivision, or other voting constituency from  
26 and after the time when the proposition has been initially filed with  
27 the appropriate election officer of that constituency prior to its  
28 circulation for signatures.

29       (5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial, economic,  
30 or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial, proprietary,  
31 financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

32       (6) "Bona fide political party" means:

33       (a) An organization that has filed a valid certificate of  
34 nomination with the secretary of state under chapter 29A.20 RCW;

35       (b) The governing body of the state organization of a major  
36 political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, that is the body

1 authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise authority  
2 on behalf of the state party; or

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

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

8 (8) "Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals  
9 appointed by a candidate or political committee, pursuant to RCW  
10 42.17.050, to perform the duties specified in that section.

11 (9) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for  
12 election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination  
13 or election when he or she first:

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

16 (b) Announces publicly or files for office;

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

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

21 (10) "Caucus political committee" means a political committee  
22 organized and maintained by the members of a major political party in  
23 the state senate or state house of representatives.

24 (11) "Commercial advertiser" means any person who sells the service  
25 of communicating messages or producing printed material for broadcast  
26 or distribution to the general public or segments of the general public  
27 whether through the use of newspapers, magazines, television and radio  
28 stations, billboard companies, direct mail advertising companies,  
29 printing companies, or otherwise.

30 (12) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW 42.17.350.

31 (13) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower meaning,  
32 includes payment in any form for real or personal property or services  
33 of any kind: PROVIDED, That for the purpose of compliance with RCW  
34 42.17.241, the term "compensation" shall not include per diem  
35 allowances or other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse  
36 a public official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged  
37 in the official business of the governmental entity.

1 (14) "Continuing political committee" means a political committee  
2 that is an organization of continuing existence not established in  
3 anticipation of any particular election campaign.

4 (15)(a) "Contribution" includes:

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

9 (ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation, consultation,  
10 or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a  
11 political committee, or their agents;

12 (iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination, distribution,  
13 or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast, written, graphic,  
14 or other form of political advertising or electioneering communication  
15 prepared by a candidate, a political committee, or its authorized  
16 agent;

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

20 (b) "Contribution" does not include:

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

23 (ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

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

27 (iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly  
28 scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the general  
29 public, that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business  
30 is that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a  
31 political committee;

32 (v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the  
33 members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
34 political committee, or to the officers, management staff, or  
35 stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members  
36 of a labor organization or other membership organization;

37 (vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly  
38 performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses

1 personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of  
2 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer services,"  
3 for the purposes of this section, means services or labor for which the  
4 individual is not compensated by any person;

5 (vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or  
6 window signs displayed on a person's own property or property occupied  
7 by a person. However, a facility used for such political advertising  
8 for which a rental charge is normally made must be reported as an in-  
9 kind contribution and counts towards any applicable contribution limit  
10 of the person providing the facility;

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

12 (A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person  
13 paying for the services is the regular employer of the person rendering  
14 such services; or

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

19 (c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed to  
20 have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the  
21 contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than  
22 their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or  
23 political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution  
24 must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value  
25 and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

26 (16) "Elected official" means any person elected at a general or  
27 special election to any public office, and any person appointed to fill  
28 a vacancy in any such office.

29 (17) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special election  
30 for public office and any election in which a ballot proposition is  
31 submitted to the voters: PROVIDED, That an election in which the  
32 qualifications for voting include other than those requirements set  
33 forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the Constitution of  
34 the state of Washington shall not be considered an election for  
35 purposes of this chapter.

36 (18) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of or in  
37 opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any  
38 campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.



1 (19) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day  
2 of December after the date of the last previous general election for  
3 the office that the candidate seeks and ending on November 30th after  
4 the next election for the office. In the case of a special election to  
5 fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period  
6 beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on November 30th  
7 after the special election.

8 (20) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or  
9 satellite television or radio transmission, United States postal  
10 service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that:

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

14 (b) Is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or  
15 otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that  
16 office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election;  
17 and

18 (c) Either alone, or in combination with one or more communications  
19 identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during the sixty days  
20 before an election, has a fair market value of five thousand dollars or  
21 more.

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

23 (a) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a  
24 candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when  
25 the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising  
26 appearing at least twelve months preceding his or her becoming a  
27 candidate;

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

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

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

35 (ii) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is that  
36 news medium; and

37 (iii) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political  
38 committee;

1 (d) Slate cards and sample ballots;

2 (e) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works

3 (i) written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract  
4 for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming  
5 a candidate, or (ii) written about a candidate;

6 (f) Public service announcements;

7 (g) A mailed internal political communication primarily limited to  
8 the members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
9 political committee, or to the officers, management staff, or  
10 stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members  
11 of a labor organization or other membership organization;

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

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

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

30 (23) "Final report" means the report described as a final report in  
31 RCW 42.17.080(2).

32 (24) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 means the  
33 election that results in the election of a person to a state office.  
34 It does not include a primary.

35 (25) "Gift," is as defined in RCW 42.52.010.

36 (26) "Immediate family" includes the spouse, dependent children,  
37 and other dependent relatives, if living in the household. For the  
38 purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, "immediate family" means

1 an individual's spouse, and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent,  
2 stepparent, grandparent, brother, half brother, sister, or half sister  
3 of the individual and the spouse of any such person and a child,  
4 stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, half  
5 brother, sister, or half sister of the individual's spouse and the  
6 spouse of any such person.

7 (27) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present possession of an  
8 elected office.

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

11 (a) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
12 office by a person who is not (i) a candidate for that office, (ii) an  
13 authorized committee of that candidate for that office, (iii) a person  
14 who has received the candidate's encouragement or approval to make the  
15 expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
16 advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any  
17 other candidate or candidates for that office, or (iv) a person with  
18 whom the candidate has collaborated for the purpose of making the  
19 expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
20 advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any  
21 other candidate or candidates for that office;

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

26 (c) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another  
27 expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or  
28 opposition to that candidate, has a value of five hundred dollars or  
29 more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under five hundred  
30 dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative  
31 value is five hundred dollars or more.

32 (29)(a) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits a  
33 contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless the  
34 contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family as  
35 defined for purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, or an  
36 association to which the individual belongs.

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

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

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

6 (30) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions, amendments,  
7 nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in either house of  
8 the state legislature, and includes any other matter that may be the  
9 subject of action by either house or any committee of the legislature  
10 and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both houses, are  
11 pending approval by the governor.

12 (31) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to influence the  
13 passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature of the state of  
14 Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule, standard, rate,  
15 or other legislative enactment of any state agency under the state  
16 Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Neither "lobby" nor  
17 "lobbying" includes an association's or other organization's act of  
18 communicating with the members of that association or organization.

19 (32) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either in his or  
20 her own or another's behalf.

21 (33) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by whom a  
22 lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom he or she is compensated  
23 for acting as a lobbyist.

24 (34) "Participate" means that, with respect to a particular  
25 election, an entity:

26 (a) Makes either a monetary or in-kind contribution to a candidate;

27 (b) Makes an independent expenditure or electioneering  
28 communication in support of or opposition to a candidate;

29 (c) Endorses a candidate prior to contributions being made by a  
30 subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or  
31 that candidate's opponent;

32 (d) Makes a recommendation regarding whether a candidate should be  
33 supported or opposed prior to a contribution being made by a subsidiary  
34 corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that  
35 candidate's opponent; or

36 (e) Directly or indirectly collaborates or consults with a  
37 subsidiary corporation or local unit on matters relating to the support  
38 of or opposition to a candidate, including, but not limited to, the

1 amount of a contribution, when a contribution should be given, and what  
2 assistance, services or independent expenditures, or electioneering  
3 communications, if any, will be made or should be made in support of or  
4 opposition to a candidate.

5 (35) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture,  
6 public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or local  
7 governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate,  
8 committee, political committee, political party, executive committee  
9 thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however  
10 organized.

11 (36) "Person in interest" means the person who is the subject of a  
12 record or any representative designated by that person, except that if  
13 that person is under a legal disability, the term "person in interest"  
14 means and includes the parent or duly appointed legal representative.

15 (37) "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays,  
16 newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids,  
17 flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, or other means of  
18 mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or  
19 indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition  
20 in any election campaign.

21 (38) "Political committee" means any person (except a candidate or  
22 an individual dealing with his or her own funds or property) having the  
23 expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in  
24 support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any ballot proposition.

25 (39) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 means the  
26 procedure for nominating a candidate to state office under chapter  
27 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in large  
28 measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW.

29 (40) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial, county,  
30 city, town, school district, port district, special district, or other  
31 state political subdivision elective office.

32 (41) "Public record" includes any writing containing information  
33 relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any  
34 governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained  
35 by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or  
36 characteristics. For the office of the secretary of the senate and the  
37 office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives, public  
38 records means legislative records as defined in RCW 40.14.100 and also

1 means the following: All budget and financial records; personnel  
2 leave, travel, and payroll records; records of legislative sessions;  
3 reports submitted to the legislature; and any other record designated  
4 a public record by any official action of the senate or the house of  
5 representatives.

6 (42) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning on the  
7 date of the filing of recall charges under RCW 29A.56.120 and ending  
8 thirty days after the recall election.

9 (43) "Sponsor of an electioneering communications, independent  
10 expenditures, or political advertising" means the person paying for the  
11 electioneering communication, independent expenditure, or political  
12 advertising. If a person acts as an agent for another or is reimbursed  
13 by another for the payment, the original source of the payment is the  
14 sponsor.

15 (44) "State legislative office" means the office of a member of the  
16 state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state  
17 senate.

18 (45) "State office" means state legislative office or the office of  
19 governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general,  
20 commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner, superintendent of  
21 public instruction, state auditor, or state treasurer.

22 (46) "State official" means a person who holds a state office.

23 (47) "Statewide ballot measure committee" is a political committee  
24 that receives contributions or makes expenditures to (a) qualify an  
25 initiative or referendum for the general election ballot for a  
26 statewide vote, or (b) oppose the qualification of an initiative or  
27 referendum for a statewide general election vote.

28 (48) "Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political committee or  
29 candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the possession  
30 or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to the election  
31 for which the contributions were received, and that are in excess of  
32 the amount necessary to pay remaining debts incurred by the committee  
33 or candidate prior to that election. In the case of a continuing  
34 political committee, "surplus funds" mean those contributions remaining  
35 in the possession or control of the committee that are in excess of the  
36 amount necessary to pay all remaining debts when it makes its final  
37 report under RCW 42.17.065.

1        (~~(48)~~) (49) "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing,  
2 photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any  
3 form of communication or representation, including, but not limited to,  
4 letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combination thereof,  
5 and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and  
6 prints, motion picture, film and video recordings, magnetic or punched  
7 cards, discs, drums, diskettes, sound recordings, and other documents  
8 including existing data compilations from which information may be  
9 obtained or translated.

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

12        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    This act takes effect January 1, 2008.

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