

Ballot Measure 1

Initiative Prohibiting the Use of Public Funds to Lobby or Campaign; and Prohibiting Holders of Government Contracts and Family Members from Making Political Contributions

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

The stated goal of Ballot Measure #1 is to end publicly funded lobbying, which may sound appealing. But it is instead a deceptive attempt to **restrict political participation** in the name of open government. These restrictions go too far, limiting individuals involved in government contracting along with all of their **'immediate family,' which includes in-laws, step-relations, nieces and nephews, among many others.**

The initiative also focuses on government contracting practices. Proponents say it will stop **"pay-to-play,"** wherein holders of government contracts trade campaign contributions for more government contracts. There's no real evidence this is a problem, but even if it is, state procurement rules dictate all contracts worth more than \$5,000 be competitively bid. Local rules are similar. The "no bid" contracts cited by proponents are, for the most part, small contracts worth less than \$5,000 for things like catering a meeting.

Proponents openly acknowledge the initiative is flawed, but ask Alaska voters to "let the courts work it out." Given the length and complexity of the initiative as well as the many gray areas where the impacts are unclear, we urge Alaskans to VOTE NO.

Here are a few more reasons to vote no:

- Communities would be prohibited from reimbursing the travel expenses of a local official who travels to Juneau or Washington, D.C., to talk to lawmakers about local needs or speak to officials at the Department of Energy or the Department of the Interior, for example. Large corporations would face no such restrictions since most don't receive public money. **How does allowing corporations exclusive access to the halls of Juneau serve Alaskans?**
- The restrictions that apply to businesses would also apply to volunteers on non-profit boards that get municipal or state support. These grants are, in essence, "contracts," and fall under the same contracting provisions in the initiative that apply to businesses.
- Ballot Measure #1 is unconstitutional. Alaska's Attorney General has already issued an opinion that many of the provisions will not pass constitutional muster. If it passes, **the state will be forced to defend it in court at taxpayer expense.** A similar initiative was just ruled unconstitutional in Colorado.

Our opponents call this "Clean and Open Government." We call it ridiculous. Numerous statewide associations representing education, business, government, unions, political organizations, health care, public service and seniors have signed on to oppose Ballot Measure #1 because it is bad for all of us.

Please read all 1,967 words of Measure #1 below and ask yourself if you understand all of its potential impacts. It is a mess. **Please vote NO on Measure #1.**

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The statement printed on this page is the opinion of the author(s) and is presented as submitted to the Division of Elections.