

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 SUPPORT

The truth of the matter is this; government at all levels must be reduced if we are to have a sustainable and healthy economic future. There is not a person, policy or politician in this state that can do more to curb the growth of government than a yes vote on proposition 1. We the people are the only ones who don't have to worry about being elected next year; therefore, it is up to us to make the collective decision to impose discipline on the process.

A Yes vote on Proposition will do three things.

First, passing proposition 1 will promote transparency by requiring an online searchable database of government contracts.

Second, it prevents recipients of sole source and NO-bid contracts including unions from making political contributions, this practice is commonly referred to as pay to play. It does NOT prohibit the union member or employees from making contributions. Family members are NOT prevented from contributing they are only prevented from being USED AS CONDUITS for making political contributions. It does NOT prevent free speech. Most seated legislators have received more campaign contributions tied to sole source government contracts than the legislators convicted in the VECO scandals received from Bill Allen. Allowing the holder of a contract to help finance the campaign of the officials who negotiate and approve the contract is inherently corrupting. Such a policy leads to favoritism in return for bribes, and scandals whenever the taxpayer's money is thrown around. Passing Proposition 1 will create a true arm's length relationship between government contract holders and the officials who approve their contracts.

The final item that proposition 1 will do is ban publically funded lobbying. Publically funded lobbying has become a multimillion dollar industry in Alaska, last year alone the state spent in excess of \$4 million dollars lobbying itself for more money. This number does not include trade organizations that maintain multi-million dollar budgets from state and local governments to lobby as well. One of the most common abuses of public funds under the category of lobbying is the practice of public dollars being used to support or oppose ballot measures and bonds. How can anyone on the opposing side to a bond or ballot initiative combat a bottomless pit of government advertising dollars? This disenfranchises the general public and turns the government into an economic engine for special interests. There is one important exception to banning the use of public funds to lobby. That exception is described in 1(c). This section explicitly describes that the initiative does NOT limit public officials (like the mayor) from communicating with other public officials like legislators. This section also does NOT apply to federal lobbying.

Currently there are 9 states with similar legislation, each recognizing the corrupting influence between no bid/sole source government contractors and campaign contributions. This is an extremely important issue that should focus on the substance of the initiative and not a collection of red herrings designed to distract and deceive.

Jason Cline, Spokesperson
Clean Team Alaska

Glenn Michael Prax

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