

## **Committee on Campaign Finance Education and Reform**

**Date: 2/23/2017**

**Location: Montpelier City Hall**

Present:

Erika Wolffing  
Madeline Motta  
Jake Perkinson  
Brady Toensing  
Josh Wronski  
Will Senning  
Natalie Silver  
Eric Covey

**Call to order 5:30 pm**

### **Introductions**

Secretary of State Jim Condos and Attorney General TJ Donovan provided opening remarks and a background for the basis of formation of the Committee.

Jake Perkinson called for introductions of Committee Members: Erika Wolffing, Madeline Motta (representing Vermont League of Women Voters), Jake Perkinson, Brady Toensing, Josh Wronski, Will Senning,

Jake Perkinson provided background to the purposes of the Committee: Education, compliance and reform.

### **Discussion**

Jake Perkinson opened the meeting to public comment.

Jake Perkinson spoke to the history of the formation of the Committee by the Attorney General and Secretary of State, and that the product is currently unknown since the first step is to understand underlying issues based on public input and feedback.

Thomas Weiss asked what form this will take and Jake Perkinson recommended that the Committee would distribute a report of recommendations.

The committee took questions from the audience and discussed issues regarding public financing, what constitutes a donation, PAC donations and what local candidates experience when running for office.

With no further comments, Attorney General Donovan offered his perspective

Attorney General Donovan spoke to the need to address and level the playing field for local council or state representative candidates who do not have the resources that statewide candidates do to hire a compliance staff member, with a common-sense focus on intent of the

law. He does believe that, although the Committee is a citizen committee it is within the purview to look at legislative possibilities and make recommendations. He spoke to the need for common sense to run through our laws, and that our laws cannot be a deterrent but an incentive to get involved in Vermont politics.

Jake Perkinson reiterated that the date and time of the next meeting will be posted on the Vermont Attorney General's website.

**Adjournment 7:30pm**