

Meeting Minutes of the March 21st Joint Committee on Campaign Finance Education,
Compliance and Reform Public Hearing
Winooski City Hall, Winooski, VT

Committee Members Present:

Secretary of State Jim Condos
Attorney General TJ Donovan
Jake Perkinson
Joshua Wronski
Brady Toensing
Madeline Motta
Eric Covey

Chair Jake Perkinson opened the Committee meeting.

Public Comment:

Public financing, urging the Committee to recommend a simpler public financing system, including:

- Doing away with the current start date
- Make the amount of public funds reasonable
- Keep the current contribution structure for achieving public funds
- Removing the barriers to party collaboration, allowing for in-kind contributions from parties but not individuals

Not related to public financing: outlaw corporate contributions to parties and candidates.

Reasonable amounts for statewide races was discussed, in context of Citizens United.

A member brought up for discussion limiting amounts that a corporation can give, and possibilities that exist by state and federally.

Discussion returned to public financing being for only statewide candidates, with Sec. Condos saying that state legislative public financing could be the place to start and work our way back from.

Financial barriers for municipal elections was discussed, as well as contribution and expenditure limits, including the ability of Parties to give unlimited amounts.

Roll-up from town to county to state.

Out of state parties giving unlimited money to in state parties was discussed.

Increased transparency of parties as opposed to Super-PACs was discussed, pointing that parties are the most regulated and transparent as opposed to Super-PACs and that the failure is disclosure. Another important distinction is that parties can coordinate, super-PACs cannot.

Why contributions and expenditures made 3 days before a reporting date are pushed to the next reporting period

The increase in contribution limits from \$2k to \$4k was discussed.

the 2 year election cycle, and if changes should be made to a 4 year term, at least for the Governor's office.

. The "gotcha" mentality was discussed and the current focus of education from the Secretary of State and Attorney General's office was discussed.

Ombudsmen as a part of Ethics Commission for ethics complaints, potentially campaign finance as well.

if you get postcards printed for a campaign but don't mail them, when is the reporting date for a mass media? Or if you get a check dated the 10th but not cashed until the 15th when do you report that contribution? These nuances were discussed.

Shared expenses between candidates was discussed.

Public comment was closed and the Committee was adjourned by Chair Jake Perkinson.