

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 484

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for election for Federal office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for election for Federal office.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Citizen Legislature and
5 Political Freedom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) The proliferation of campaign finance laws
2 (beginning with the Federal Election Campaign Act
3 of 1971) and the proliferation of government regula-
4 tions promulgated pursuant to such laws have placed
5 strict limits on contributions by citizens to the can-
6 didates of their choice, limits which have served to
7 severely hinder the ability of challengers to compete
8 on equal terms with incumbent politicians.

9 (2) The contribution limits imposed by the Fed-
10 eral Election Campaign Act of 1971 force candidates
11 to raise funds in small amounts subject to fixed limi-
12 tations, inevitably fostering a system under which
13 wealthy candidates and long-term incumbent politi-
14 cians hold an unfair financial advantage, which in
15 turn serves to discourage potential candidates from
16 seeking public office.

17 (3) The current campaign finance laws have in-
18 hibited the full and fair discussion of public policy
19 issues, as challengers who are not well known to the
20 electorate are forced by government regulation to at-
21 tempt to amass contributions from large numbers of
22 donors at the outset of a campaign. As a result,
23 challengers who lack the necessary resources to
24 bring new issues into the public debate often are

1 eliminated from political campaigns before their
2 voices are even heard.

3 (4) The regulation by government of political
4 speech through the regulation of campaign contribu-
5 tions and expenditures is patently undemocratic be-
6 cause it favors institutionalized special interests over
7 grassroots and citizen activity by imposing burden-
8 some reporting and disclosure requirements and
9 stringent spending limits on the political parties,
10 thereby tilting the financial and tactical advantage
11 in political campaigns to well-financed interest
12 groups and wealthy individuals.

13 (5) The effect of the unreasonably low contribu-
14 tion limits has been to force more contributors and
15 political activists to operate outside the system, re-
16 sulting in even less accountability and even greater
17 encouragement of irresponsible behavior.

18 (6) The only way to encourage the robust dis-
19 course of public issues and candidates, promote the
20 free exchange of political speech and ideas, protect
21 constitutional freedom, and foster a more informed
22 electorate is to lift all current restrictions on polit-
23 ical candidate and party contributions and expendi-
24 tures and to provide full, instantaneous disclosure of

1 all contributions and expenditures in elections for
2 Federal office.

3 **SEC. 3. REMOVAL OF LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL ELECTION**
4 **CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.**

5 Section 315(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
6 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new paragraph:

8 “(9) The limitations established under this subsection
9 shall not apply to contributions made during calendar
10 years beginning after 2007.”.

11 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF BAN ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDI-**
12 **TURES BY CORPORATIONS AND LABOR ORGA-**
13 **NIZATIONS.**

14 Section 316(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
15 of 1971 is amended—

16 (1) by striking “(a) It is unlawful” and insert-
17 ing “(a)(1) It is unlawful”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following new
19 paragraph:

20 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect
21 to elections occurring after December 2007.”.

22 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF TAXPAYER FINANCING OF PRESI-**
23 **DENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.**

24 (a) **TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION OF INCOME TAX**
25 **PAYMENTS.**—Section 6096 of the Internal Revenue Code

1 of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following
2 new subsection:

3 “(d) **TERMINATION.**—This section shall not apply to
4 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.”.

5 (b) **TERMINATION OF FUND AND ACCOUNT.**—

6 (1) **TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**
7 **CAMPAIGN FUND.**—

8 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 95 of subtitle
9 H of such Code is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 9014. TERMINATION.**

12 “The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with
13 respect to any presidential election (or any presidential
14 nominating convention) after December 31, 2007, or to
15 any candidate in such an election.”.

16 (B) **TRANSFER OF EXCESS FUNDS TO GEN-**
17 **ERAL FUND.**—Section 9006 of such Code is
18 amended by adding at the end the following
19 new subsection:

20 “(d) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS REMAINING AFTER**
21 **2007.**—The Secretary shall transfer all amounts in the
22 fund after December 31, 2007, to the general fund of the
23 Treasury.”.

1 (2) TERMINATION OF ACCOUNT.—Chapter 96
2 of subtitle H of such Code is amended by adding at
3 the end the following new section:

4 **“SEC. 9043. TERMINATION.**

5 “The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any
6 candidate with respect to any presidential election after
7 December 31, 2007.”.

8 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) The table of sections for chapter 95 of sub-
10 title H of such Code is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new item:

“Sec. 9014. Termination.”.

12 (2) The table of sections for chapter 96 of sub-
13 title H of such Code is amended by adding at the
14 end the following new item:

“Sec. 9043. Termination.”.

15 **SEC. 6. DISCLOSURE BY STATE AND LOCAL POLITICAL PAR-**
16 **TIES OF INFORMATION REPORTED UNDER**
17 **STATE LAW.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Federal Elec-
19 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

21 “(i) If a political committee of a State or local polit-
22 ical party is required under a State or local law, rule, or
23 regulation to submit a report on its disbursements to an
24 entity of the State or local government, the committee

1 shall file a copy of the report with the Commission at the
 2 time it submits the report to such an entity.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 4 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections occur-
 5 ring after December 2007.

6 **SEC. 7. PROMOTING EXPEDITED AVAILABILITY OF FEC RE-**
 7 **PORTS.**

8 (a) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING FOR ALL RE-
 9 PORTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(a)(11) of the
 11 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C.
 12 434(a)(11)) is amended—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “a
 14 person required to file—” and all that follows
 15 and inserting the following: “each person re-
 16 quired to file a report under this Act shall be
 17 required to maintain and file such report in
 18 electronic form accessible by computers.”;

19 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “des-
 20 ignations, statements, and reports” and insert-
 21 ing “documents”; and

22 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking
 23 “means, with respect to” and all that follows
 24 and inserting the following: “means any report,
 25 designation, statement, or notification required

1 by this Act to be filed with the Commission or
2 the Secretary of the Senate.”.

3 (2) PLACEMENT OF ALL REPORTS ON INTER-
4 NET.—Section 304(a)(11)(B) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
5 434(a)(11)(B)) is amended—

6 (A) by striking “a designation, statement,
7 report, or notification” and inserting “each re-
8 port”; and

9 (B) by striking “the designation, state-
10 ment, report, or notification” and inserting
11 “the report”.

12 (3) SOFTWARE FOR FILING OF ALL REPORTS.—
13 Section 304(a)(12) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
14 434a(a)(12)) is amended—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking
16 “each person required to file a designation,
17 statement, or report in electronic form” and in-
18 serting “each person required to file a report
19 (as defined in paragraph (11)(D))”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “any
21 designation, statement, or report” and inserting
22 “any report (as defined in paragraph
23 (11)(D))”.

24 (b) REQUIRING REPORTS FOR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
25 MADE TO ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE WITHIN 90 DAYS

1 OF ELECTION; REQUIRING REPORTS TO BE MADE WITH-
 2 IN 24 HOURS.—Section 304(a)(6)(A) of such Act (2
 3 U.S.C. 434(a)(6)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(A) Each political committee shall notify the Sec-
 5 retary or the Commission, and the Secretary of State, as
 6 appropriate, in writing, of any contribution received by the
 7 committee during the period which begins on the 90th day
 8 before an election and ends at the time the polls close for
 9 such election. This notification shall be made within 24
 10 hours (or, if earlier, by midnight of the day on which the
 11 contribution is deposited) after the receipt of such con-
 12 tribution and shall include the name of the candidate in-
 13 volved (as appropriate) and the office sought by the can-
 14 didate, the identification of the contributor, and the date
 15 of receipt and amount of the contribution.”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 17 this section shall apply with respect to reports for periods
 18 beginning on or after January 1, 2008.

19 **SEC. 8. WAIVER OF “BEST EFFORTS” EXCEPTION FOR IN-**
 20 **FORMATION ON IDENTIFICATION OF CON-**
 21 **TRIBUTORS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(i) of the Federal
 23 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(i)) is
 24 amended—

1 (1) by striking “(i) When the treasurer” and
2 inserting “(i)(1) Except as provided in paragraph
3 (2), when the treasurer”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraph:

6 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to
7 information regarding the identification of any person who
8 makes a contribution or contributions aggregating more
9 than \$200 during a calendar year (as required to be pro-
10 vided under subsection (c)(3)).”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
12 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to persons making
13 contributions for elections occurring after December 2007.

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