

## **Sample comments to the Secretary of State on disclosure rules**

**Email at [sos.rules@state.nm.us](mailto:sos.rules@state.nm.us), fax (505) 827-8081, or mail to Attn: Kari Fresquez – proposed rule, Secretary of State, 325 Don Gaspar, Suite 300, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

We need to clarify reporting requirements for Pacs, and I am glad you are issuing regulations in advance of the upcoming elections. It is simply not fair that one kind of political action committee (PAC) has to reveal its donors and another kind does not. As citizens we need to have as much information as possible about who is funding whom, so that we can make informed decisions. I support your requirement that groups who spend more than \$1,000 on election activities reveal who they are and where they get their money.

This is a comment in support of the draft regulations the SOS is issuing to clarify the Campaign Reporting Act. These regulations will help filers comply with the law, which is now murky and inconsistent. It will define what a “coordinated “ expenditure is, which will address some of the abuses that have gone on between candidates and supposedly independent groups, who use the same office, the same fundraiser and the same PO Box to receive contributions. These groups are deceiving the public and avoiding reporting requirements that other PACs must follow. Thank you!

Anonymous letters, unsigned complaints and phone calls where the caller refuses to identify him or herself are not considered credible. Yet donors to independent political PACs resist identification, saying, like the crank caller, they are just exercising their right to free speech. That would be laughable if millions of their dollars were not used to swing elections one way or another without giving the public any clue as to why. Thank you Madame Secretary for your draft regulations, which will shine a little light on these independent expenditures of more than \$1,000 specifically designed to sway an election. We have a right to know.

### **Sample phone call:**

505-827-3600.

I support the Secretary’s draft campaign finance regulations.

Why?

1. The current laws are confusing and conflict with court decisions—the new rules will clarify the situation for everyone and lead to more consistent enforcement.
2. Independent Pacs, if they are spending money on elections, should have to report their donors and what they are doing. The public has right to know. An informed electorate is an important part of democracy.