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MAY 05 2023

ABSENTEE REINSTATING ALASKA'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE LIMITS INITIATIVE

AN INITIATIVE TO:

TO RE-ESTABLISH CAMPAIGN DONATION LIMITS FOR STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS; AND TO RE-ESTABLISH LIMITS ON OUT-OF-STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE AND LOCAL CANDIDATES.

A BILL BY INITIATIVE

For an Act Entitled:

"An Act restoring campaign contribution limits for campaigns for state and local office; and restoring limits on out-of-state contributions to candidates for state and local office."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a section to read:

FINDINGS AND INTENT. The People of the State of Alaska find:

- (1) The people of Alaska believe that political power and influence with public officials should not be allocated solely based on wealth. Instead, reasonable limits on the amount of campaign contributions are necessary to secure equal rights for Alaskans and to preserve the integrity of our elections.
- (2) Because Alaska is a lower population state, and because its elections could easily be dominated by campaign contributions from wealthy individuals from outside the state, it is in the public interest of Alaska to place reasonable limits on the proportion of each campaign's contributions coming from sources outside the state.

Section 2. AS 15.13.070(b) is amended to read:

(b) Except as provided in (h) of this section, an [AN] individual may contribute not more than

(1) \$2,000 each election cycle [\$500 PER YEAR] to a nongroup entity for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate, to a candidate, or to an individual who conducts a write-in campaign as a candidate [, OR TO A GROUP THAT IS NOT A POLITICAL PARTY];

(2) \$5,000 a [PER] year to a political party or other group.

Section 3. AS 15.13.070(c) is amended to read:

(c) Except as provided in (h) of this section, a [A] group that is not a political party may contribute not more than

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(1) \$4,000 each election cycle [\$1,000 PER YEAR (1)] to a candidate, or to an individual who conducts a write-in campaign as a candidate;

(2) \$5,000 each year to another group, to a nongroup entity, or to a political party.

**Section 4.** AS 15.13.070(f) is amended to read:

(f) Except as provided in (h) of this section, a [A] nongroup entity may contribute not more than

(1) \$4,000 each election cycle [\$1,000 A YEAR] to another nongroup entity for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate, to a candidate, or to an individual who conducts a write-in campaign as a candidate;

(2) \$5,000 each year [,] to a group [,] or to a political party.

**Section 5.** AS 15.13.070(g) is amended to read:

(g) Where contributions are made to a joint campaign for governor and lieutenant governor,

(1) an individual may contribute not more than \$4,000 each election cycle [\$1,000 PER YEAR]; and

(2) a group may contribute not more than \$8,000 each election cycle [\$2,000 PER YEAR].

**Section 6.** AS 15.13.070 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(h) In order to comply with federal caselaw, the contribution limits provided under (b)(1), (c)(2), and (f) of this section do not apply to an individual, group, or nongroup entity contributing to a group or nongroup entity that makes only independent expenditures.

(i) Beginning in the first quarter of calendar year 2031 and every 10 years thereafter, the commission shall, by regulation, adjust the contribution limitations set out in this section by a percentage equal to the percentage of increase over the preceding 10-year period in all items of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for Anchorage, Alaska, rounded to the nearest \$50 increment.

**Section 7.** AS 15.13.072(e) is amended to read:

(e) A candidate or an individual who has filed with the commission the document necessary to permit that individual to incur election-related expenses under AS 15.13.100 may solicit or accept contributions from an individual who is not a resident of the state at the time

the contribution is made, but the amounts accepted from individuals who are not residents can never exceed 25 percent of the total contributions received by the candidate or individual during the campaign [IF THE AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT RESIDENTS DO NOT EXCEED

(1) \$20,000 A CALENDAR YEAR, IF THE CANDIDATE OR INDIVIDUAL IS SEEKING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR;

(2) \$5,000 A CALENDAR YEAR, IF THE CANDIDATE OR INDIVIDUAL IS SEEKING THE OFFICE OF STATE SENATOR;

(3) \$3,000 A CALENDAR YEAR, IF THE CANDIDATE OR INDIVIDUAL IS SEEKING THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE OR MUNICIPAL OR OTHER OFFICE].

**Section 8.** AS 15.13.110(i) is amended to read:

(i) During an election cycle [A CAMPAIGN PERIOD], the commission may not change the manner or format in which reports required of a candidate under this chapter must be filed. [IN THIS SUBSECTION, "CAMPAIGN PERIOD" MEANS THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE DATE THAT A CANDIDATE BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THIS CHAPTER AND ENDING ON THE DATE THAT A FINAL REPORT FOR THAT SAME CAMPAIGN MUST BE FILED.]

**Section 9.** AS 15.13.400 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(20) "election cycle" means the period beginning on the date that a candidate becomes eligible to receive campaign contributions under this chapter and ending on the date that a final report for that same campaign must be filed.

**Section 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. This Act does not apply to contributions made to influence the outcome of any election that occurred on or before the effective date of this Act.

SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Act are independent and severable. If any provision of this Act or the applicability of any provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected and shall be given effect to the fullest extent possible.

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