



For Immediate Release:

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Secretary of State's Office: Campaign Finance Reform Signed into Law

CHEYENNE, WY – Governor Mark Gordon has signed into law Senate File 18 – “Campaign Finance Revisions” (Senate Enrolled Act No. 3). This campaign finance reform bill is the second piece of legislation signed by Governor Gordon into law after his election to office. The Wyoming Secretary of State's Office, which administers Wyoming's elections, applauds the signing.

“During the 2018 Election Season, several campaign finance issues presented themselves. The advent of social media, the creative use of political action committees, and the advancement of technology, require a more dynamic approach to campaign finance. This bill is a good start to reforming Wyoming's Election Code,” said Secretary of State Edward Buchanan.

Senate File 18 (Senate Enrolled Act No. 3) effectively:

- Streamlines reporting of expenditures for all political entities and enhances transparency by requiring expenditures and contributions to be reported simultaneously, prior to an election;
- Raises the threshold for reporting to account for inflation from \$25 to \$100;
- Modernizes and clarifies campaign advertising provisions to include online advertising;
- Brings clarity to all campaign advertisements by defining “electioneering communications”;
- Requires that all campaign activity, which implicates a candidate, be subject to the disclosure of donors and expenditures, regardless of whether there was coordination with a candidate or not; and
- Requires a disclosure to explicitly use “Paid for by...”

The Secretary of State's Office received a high number of comments and feedback directly from Wyoming voters regarding the gray area of express advocacy in campaign advertisements. The feedback received by the Secretary of State's Office focused on several entities calling themselves “Switch for Wyoming,” “Wrong for Wyoming,” and “Protecting Our Constitution.” The types of campaign advertisements from these groups are now defined and regulated under Wyoming law through Senate File 18.

“However distasteful and disappointing advertisements from ‘Wrong for Wyoming,’ ‘Switch for Wyoming,’ and ‘Protecting Our Constitution’ may have been, they were legal in 2018. The 2020 election cycle will be different with these reforms. I am especially grateful to the Corporations Elections and Political Subdivisions Committees in the Senate and House for recognizing that updating the election code is essential to ensure the integrity of the election process from beginning to end,” said Secretary Buchanan.

To view the full text of the bill, visit: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/2019/Enroll/SF0018.pdf>.





