

HISTORY OF INITIATED ACT 1

The Standards of Conduct and Disclosure Act for Candidates and Political Campaigns

- Push for Ethics Reform begins with overwhelming voter approval of the Lobbyist Disclosure Act of 1988.
- The 1988 act does not address campaign finance laws.
- Concern grows about the inordinate influence of special interest money in political races. 1989 legislative session fails to make changes in the law.
- Campaign Ethics Committee is formed by four non-partisan good government groups - League of Women Voters of Arkansas, Arkansas AARP, Common Cause, Arkansas IMPACT Network (council of churches and synagogues) - and reform-minded legislators.
- Study of Arkansas' campaign finance laws begins.
- Public comment period on needed changes begins in April 1989.
- Public hearings on campaign finance laws held statewide, Summer 1989.
- Campaign Ethics Committee drafts proposed language and receives additional public comment.
- Proposed initiated act is submitted to Attorney General for early ballot title review.
- Attorney General approves ballot title; public notice printed in newspaper October, 1989.
- Petition drive to gather 55,084 signatures begins in January, 1990. Effort supported by Christian Ministerial Alliance, NAACP, NOW, Church Women United, AAUW, Arkansas Women's Political Caucus, PEER, and hundreds of individual citizens.
- Petitions are submitted July 6, 1990 to Secretary of State for verification. Secretary of State validates 54,601 signatures, and gives supporters additional one month provided by law to submit 483 additional signatures to qualify for the ballot.
- 4,613 additional signatures submitted on August 22, 1990 to the Secretary of State.
- Secretary of State certifies Initiated ACT 1 for the November, 1990 ballot on August 23, 1990.
- Campaign for voter approval of ACT 1 begins August 24, 1990.

**ON NOVEMBER 6, 1990,
VOTE FOR INITIATED ACT 1.**

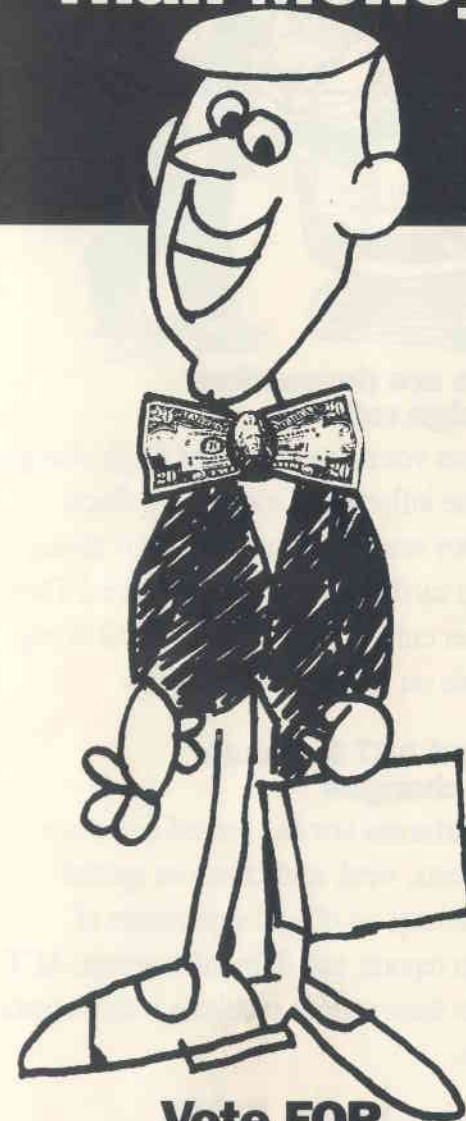
**Vote FOR
Initiated ACT 1
CAMPAIGN ETHICS**



Campaign Ethics Committee
2020 West Third • Suite 300
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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**People Should
Count More
Than Money**



**Vote FOR
Initiated ACT 1
CAMPAIGN ETHICS**

STOP THE POWER OF HIDDEN MONEY



People are demanding campaign reform

Arkansas voters say they want tough changes to curb the influence of money in political races. They want disclosure of who is giving money to candidates and how it is spent. They seek better enforcement of the law and strong restrictions on special interest money.

Initiated ACT 1 makes tough changes

Now, Arkansas law has limited disclosure requirements, weak restrictions on special interest money, no official supervision of campaign reports, and little enforcement. ACT 1 corrects these serious problems with dramatic new laws.

**Vote FOR
Initiated ACT 1
CAMPAIGN ETHICS**

Vote FOR Initiated Act 1—The Standards of Conduct and Disclosure Act for Candidates and Political Campaigns.

Here are the major changes to stop hidden money in campaigns:

A Crack Down on PACs (Political Action Committees)

PACs give special interests more clout than the rest of us. In Arkansas, PACs are not required to register or disclose the interests they represent or candidates to whom they contribute. The wealthy can give unlimited and undisclosed sums to PACs.

ACT 1 will mandate disclosure by PACs and prohibit anyone from giving a PAC more than \$200 a year. Only three states - Arkansas, Mississippi, and Utah - do not require PACs to file campaign reports.

No More Large War Chests To Help Incumbents

After general elections, all candidates would have to give up unused campaign funds. They would keep only an amount equal to the official's salary plus funds to repay personal money or loans for the campaign, if any.

No Political Contributions During Legislative Sessions

A prime time to use contributions for influence with elected officials will be "off limits." Legislators and executive officers will be unable to accept contributions, or promises of contributions, during legislative sessions.

Less Influence from Wealthy Interests

The maximum contribution limit will be lowered from \$1,500 to \$1,000. Big contributors would not be able to dodge the limit, as now, by giving more through dependent children.

No Honoraria For Legislators

If special interests try to get around the restrictions by paying lawmakers for speeches, they will be prohibited unless the speech is in the course of the lawmaker's private occupation.

Much More Disclosure

There will be more itemized disclosure of political contributors and expenses by candidates, including when a wealthy candidate contributes his own money. And, the disclosures will be more frequent - each month of the campaign.

New Enforcement of Campaign Finance Laws

For the first time, citizens will be able to file complaints about campaign finance violations with the Arkansas Ethics Commission, made up of non-salaried commissioners from outside of government, who will be required to act quickly.

What you can do to help

Let your elected officials know that you support Initiated ACT 1. Write a letter-to-the-editor of your local newspaper urging an endorsement for ACT 1. Talk to your friends and co-workers, urge them to vote for ACT 1. Make a contribution to:

Campaign Ethics Committee
2020 West Third, Suite 300
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 374-6046.

And then... **Vote FOR ACT 1 on November 6, 1990.**