

Minutes of the Nevada State Legislature
Senate Committee on Government Affairs
Date: March 30, 1979
Page: One

Present: Vice Chairman Keith Ashworth
Senator Dodge
Senator Echols
Senator Kosinski
Senator Raggio

Also Present: See Attached Guest Register

Vice Chairman Keith Ashworth called the twenty-fifth meeting of the Government Affairs committee to order at 12:10 p.m. The Vice Chairman asked that the first order of business be the hearing of SB-374.

S.B. 374 Reduces threshold amount for required reports of campaign contributions.

Senator Hernstadt, sponsor, testified to the committee in favor of reducing the threshold from \$500. to \$50. He noted that the Research Department in the Legislative Counsel Bureau prepared a report for him noting the campaign contributions filed by every member of the legislature in 1976 and 1978. He further noted that the report was prepared without using any names. (See Attachment #1). The Senator went over the attached for the committee in an effort to reflect the inability of the current laws to accurately reflect campaign contributions.

Senator Ashworth asked Senator Hernstadt if he felt that there should be a cap on the amount of money people could contribute to a candidate.

Senator Hernstadt responded that he did not feel that a cap should be placed on contributions and noted the Supreme Court ruling that supported this theory because it could help keep an incumbent in office.

Senator Raggio stated that when this bill was previously before the legislature it was their intent to protect the privacy of those contributing.

Senator Kosinski stated that some organizations will be discouraged if their names are published as contributors. He further stated that there needs to be a workable figure for reporting of campaign contributions and even though \$500. is not necessarily a good figure \$50. is not workable either.

Gerald Prindiville, Common Cause, testified in favor of SB-374 stating that he sent a questionnaire to each candidate running for state office in Nevada. The results indicated that the majority of Senators were in favor of reporting campaign contributions. Mr. Prindiville concluded by stating that Common Cause supports open government and since we are in times of inflation and careful spending of tax dollars people are looking more closely at how money is being spent in their own government areas.

Arthur Cruickshank, Common Cause, testified in favor of SB-374 but further noted that he was willing to present information to the committee on the effects of campaign contributions to the candidates and the type of legislation that if affected by such contributions.

Senator Keith Ashworth asked Mr. Cruickshank to please confine his remarks to the portion of the bill that will make a change in the amount reported. At this point Mr. Cruickshank stated that due to the time element he would only concur with the remarks made by Mr. Prindiville and support the bill at the \$50. limit.

Senator Ashworth stated that due to a time element they would not act on SB-374 during this meeting and would now turn to SB-359.

SB-359 Makes various amendments to North Las Vegas City Charter.

Senator Echols stated that the North Las Vegas City Counsel unanimously supports the amendments in SB-359. The bill makes three changes. 1) It changes the terms of elected officers and they will now end on July 1 rather than the first Monday in July. 2) Changes in Sections 2,3, and 4 are made to comply with the provisions in the open meeting law. 3) The authority for the City Manager to discharge an employee is provided in Section 5.

Senator Dodge questioned the possible deletion of notice procedures in Section 2 of SB-359.

Senator Echols was also concerned about this and stated that the amendment language was prepared by Janet Wilson and he would check with her to be sure that they were in compliance with the open meeting laws.


Senator Raggio was concerned about the remedy provisions for those employees that are discharged by the City Manager.

Senator Echols was unsure of the procedures used by the city of North Las Vegas and indicated that he would check on that and report back to the committee.

Vice Chairman Ashworth stated that no action would be taken on either SB-374 or SB-359 at this meeting and would be discussed further at a later date.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:


Vice Chairman
Senator K. Ashworth

Respectfully submitted


Janice M. Peck - Lois Smith, Acting
Prepared Minutes/Committee Secretary 571

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March 28, 1979

TO: Senator Bill Hernstadt
FROM: J. Kenneth Creighton, Research Analyst *JCC*
SUBJECT: Campaign Contributions

Enclosed is the information that you requested regarding campaign contributions in Nevada senate and assembly races for 1976 and 1978.

The tables show the following for the winning candidates: The total amount of contributions, the total amount of reportable contributions (those exceeding \$500), the number of persons/organizations that contributed \$500 or more, and the percentage of reportable contributions to total contributions.

Federal law (Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974 and 1976) requires campaign records to be kept of all contributions over \$50 and that all contributions over \$100 be reported with the address, occupation, and place of business of the contributor. The Supreme Court upheld these statutory requirements in Buckley v. Valeo (1976).

If you have any further questions on this subject, please let me know.

JKC/llp
Enc.

EXHIBIT 1 #1
572

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ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

<u>TOTAL</u> <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>REPORTABLE</u> <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>NO. OF PERSONS/</u> <u>ORGANIZATIONS</u> <u>CONTRIBUTING</u> <u>MORE THAN \$500</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF</u> <u>REPORTABLE</u> <u>TO TOTAL</u> <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>
845			
3,036	500	1	16
1,000	1,000	2	100
3,815			
6,729			
8,125			
1,275			
1,033			
4,335			
478			
1,795			
-0-			
1,895			
1,625			
5,954			
3,874			
2,170			
1,500			
2,826			
5,110			
3,225			
5,585			
3,935			
4,335			
3,675			
3,950	700	1	18
3,170			
8,620			
4,675			
1,850	500	1	27
-0-			
5,410			
2,772	500	1	18
3,975			
2,325	500	1	22
6,670			
1,605			
8,655	2,055	2	24
3,220	1,000	1	31
3,433			

E X H I B I T

573

1 9 7 6

SENATE DISTRICTS

<u>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL REPORTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>NO. OF PERSONS/ ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$500</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF REPORTABLE TO TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</u>
9,095	6,000	2	66
2,777	1,000	1	36
8,415			
26,170	4,100	3	16
6,750	600	1	9
9,616	501	1	5
20,000	20,000	7	100
3,182	1,000	1	31
13,467	12,500	7	93
6,897			
11,934			

1 9 7 8

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL REPORTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS	NO. OF PERSONS/ ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$500	PERCENTAGE OF REPORTABLE TO TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
9,785			
2,485			
20,655	5,200	1	25
6,125	1,500	1	24
12,770			
11,150			
13,380			
13,805	1,000	1	7
12,185	1,000	1	8
17,090			
9,517	3,292	2	35
8,650			
11,640			
18,700	10,675	3	57
12,715			
9,211			
2,450			
7,371	4,000	1	54
310			
11,050			
13,225	1,000	1	8
8,590	1,000	1	12
12,925	600	1	5
6,595			
11,820			
12,170			
33,426			
5,600			
11,644			
7,602	3,710	2	49
5,644	500	1	9
16,252			
9,640			
24,343	2,000	2	8
7,005			
7,191	1,590	2	22
1,125			
5,570			
4,526			
2,110			

1 9 7 8

SENATE DISTRICTS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL REPORTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS	NO. OF PERSONS/ ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN \$500	PERCENTAGE OF REPORTABLE TO TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
23,673	9,500	6	40
29,990	6,250	5	21
15,760	2,750	3	17
29,664	11,550	4	39
9,347			
58,513	6,000	5	10
38,365	13,000	10	34
74,700	13,769	12	18
51,893	10,008	9	19
46,719	13,670	7	29

