

June 23, 2014



League of Women Voters®

Massachusetts

## TIME TO ACT ON THE DISCLOSE ACT

### SHED LIGHT ON MONEY IN POLITICS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Disclose Act has just been reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Election Laws as H.4197. The legislature may vote on this bill as early as this Wednesday, June 25.

Please call or email your Senator and Representative now and ask them to vote in favor of H.4197 to provide transparency in campaign financing. *Citizens United* and other U.S. Supreme Court rulings have allowed large donations by special interests and individuals to political action committees. At least this bill will require those SuperPACs to disclose where the money is coming from. The voters deserve to know who is paying for campaign advertising.

H.4197 combines campaign reform bills LWVMA has supported, H.651 and S.321, with elements from a bill on corporate campaign spending. It has the support of House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Senate President Therese Murray.

Click [here](#) for the contact information for your Senator and Representative.

Passage of this bill will:

- Clarify that current disclosure and reporting requirements apply to all political communications allowed under the law;
- Require corporations, labor unions and special interests paying for political advertisements to disclose their spending, even if the advertisements are made by another group or entity;
- Require entities or groups paying for political ads to report on funds they receive.
- Require organizations spending large amounts on political advertisements to register as political committees;
- Require political advertisements to include disclaimer statements that identify their top contributors, so that big donors can't hide their spending behind a "shadow organization" with an innocuous sounding name;
- Prevent coordination between candidates and outside groups.

Passage of this bill will not:

- Deny any citizen the right to contribute;
- Prevent funding by U.S. organizations of any campaign;
- Limit free speech.

This email was sent to all members.

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