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S. WARD

1:35 P.M.

ELECTIONS/LICENSING
SECRETARY OF STATE

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** ARTICLE XXVIII as follows:

Section 1. Purposes and findings. The people of the state of Colorado hereby find and declare that large campaign contributions to political candidates create the potential for corruption and the appearance of corruption; that large campaign contributions made to influence election outcomes allow wealthy individuals, corporations, and special interest groups to exercise a disproportionate level of influence over the political process; that the rising costs of campaigning for political office prevent qualified citizens from running for political office; that because of the use of early voting in Colorado timely notice of independent expenditures is essential for informing the electorate; that in recent years the advent of significant spending on electioneering communications, as defined herein, has frustrated the purpose of existing campaign finance requirements; that independent research has demonstrated that the vast majority of televised electioneering communications goes beyond issue discussion to express electoral advocacy; that political contributions from corporate treasuries are not an indication of popular support for the corporation's political ideas and can unfairly influence the outcome of Colorado elections; and that the interests of the public are best served by limiting campaign contributions, ~~encouraging voluntary~~ ESTABLISHING campaign spending limits, providing for full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions, independent expenditures, and funding of electioneering communications, and strong enforcement of campaign finance requirements.

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In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 1-45-102 as follows:

1-45-102. Legislative declaration. The people of the state of Colorado hereby find and declare that large campaign contributions to political candidates allow wealthy contributors and special interest groups to exercise a disproportionate level of influence over the political process; that large campaign contributions create the potential for corruption and the appearance of corruption; that the rising costs of campaigning for political office prevent qualified citizens from running for political office; and that the interests of the public are best served by limiting campaign contributions, ~~encouraging voluntary~~ ESTABLISHING campaign spending limits, full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions, and strong enforcement of campaign laws.

In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-45-103.7, **add** (9) as follows:

1-45-103.7 Contribution limits - treatment of independent expenditure committees - contributions from limited liability companies – definitions – Voter instructions on corporate spending and spending limits.

(9) (a) THE VOTERS INSTRUCT THE COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROPOSE AND SUPPORT, AND THE COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE TO RATIFY, AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THAT:

(I) ESTABLISHES THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE WITH THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AS NATURAL PERSONS;

(II) ALLOWS CONGRESS AND THE STATES TO LIMIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING TO ENSURE THAT ALL CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF WEALTH, CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS TO ONE ANOTHER AND THEIR GOVERNMENT ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD.

(b) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2013, AND BE APPLICABLE THEREAFTER.