

STATE OF COLORADO

Department of State

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To the editor:

After several unsuccessful calls to meet with *Post* editorial staff and a refusal to print my rebuttal to your August 14 editorial criticizing rule making by my office, I am still trying to provide the “other side.”

Many individuals regularly suggest rules to interpret and implement Colorado’s Campaign Finance laws. This office reviews all suggestions. We adopt rules after notice and full public hearings to provide clarity for citizens, campaign committees and issue committees. The rules in this office are written to apply to **all** groups seeking to influence the political process, regardless of the membership of those groups.

New rules require membership organizations to ask their members whether dues should be spent for political campaign purposes. Dues from members who say no can still be spent for other organizational purposes. These rules clearly increase the transparency for citizens concerning where money comes from in the political process.

I was further puzzled by your Tuesday editorial bemoaning the lack of such transparency in the election process by 527 committees supporting ballot issues.

I find it fascinating that radio commercials – paid for by a 527 committee supporting Democrats – attacking implementation of these rules began running the very same morning as the *Post*’s editorial. Last Tuesday’s *USA Today* front page reported a concerted effort by the Democratic party nationally to target Secretary of State races, including the Colorado race. Timing is everything. Were I as adept at making assumptions as the *Post*, I would conclude the timing here was a bit too coincidental.

I would encourage readers interested in learning the rest of the story concerning the new campaign finance rules the rules implemented August 2 to go to <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/pressrel/news.html> and read my editorial rebuttal.

Sincerely,

Gigi Dennis
Colorado Secretary of State