

## Andrea Gyger

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**From:** Philip Coates [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 2:00 PM  
**To:** Andrea Gyger  
**Cc:** Diana Hsieh  
**Subject:** The Campaign Finance Laws Hobble the Right to Speak Out and Persuade Others

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Rules

Subject: The Campaign Finance Laws Hobble, Hamstring, and Violate the Right to Make One's Views Known and to Peacefully Change one's Elected Officials

The First Amendment says that Congress shall make no law... infringing on the [freedom of speech](#), infringing on the [freedom of the press](#), interfering with the [right to peaceably assemble](#) or prohibiting the [petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances](#).

Substitute "the states" and you have a moral principle applicable to Colorado. Colorado's public reporting provisions of its Campaign Finance laws violate all four of the above restrictions on the power of government.

1. Freedom to petition for a redress of grievances: By placing a heavy bureaucratic burden on expressing disapproval of government's present course and/or seeking new leaders at election time, these laws place obstacles in the way of changing one's leaders and their policies through persuasion, through communication, through argument.
2. The right of assembly: By placing burdens and costs in the way of organizing, in the way of jointly financing one's expression and views and candidates, one prevents people from assembling to fight for the political positions they advocate. Or the candidates who will represent these views.
3. Freedom of speech: By making it onerous in terms of paperwork for individuals to express their viewpoints in an election, it intimidates, lessens, undercuts the freeness and fluidity with which individuals without massive resources will speak out.
4. Freedom of the press: By applying these laws to all publication, all written or spoken arguments or venues, it bullies and hamstring the seeking of a large forum for these views and candidates.

It is exactly during an election when people need to be freest and most unhindered in their statements, publications, finances, organization, and assembly in order that free men can freely choose their own leaders. Or oust them when need be. Colorado's laws in this area are shameful and un-American. To paraphrase the old Woody Guthrie song:

"Here's to the country you've torn out the heart of. Colorado, find yourself another country to be part of."