

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or joint)

Committee on
Campaigns &
Elections
(AC-CE)

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

Published Documents

> Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

> **

> Committee Reports ... CR

> **

> Executive Sessions ... ES

> **

> Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

> **

*Information Collected For Or
Against Proposal*

> Appointments ... Appt

> **

> Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

**

> Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

> **05hr_ab0066_AC-CE_pt02**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **

Griffiths, Terri

From: Common Cause In Wisconsin/Jay Heck [ccwisjwh@itiss.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 11:54 AM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: Measure to Ban Campaign Fund Raising During Budget Faces First Test Thursday!

CONTACT: Jay Heck - 608/256-2686 **FOR RELEASE:** Thursday-May 25, 2005

**REFORM MEASURE TO BAN CAMPAIGN FUND RAISING
 WHILE STATE BUDGET IS BEING WRITTEN
 FACES FIRST TEST TOMORROW**

Much needed bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation that would prohibit legislators and state wide elected officials from accepting campaign contributions during the entire period when the state budget is being considered, may pass tomorrow in a committee and sent to the floor of the State Assembly for consideration in the near future.

Common Cause in Wisconsin (CC/WI) devised, initiated and first proposed a version of ASSEMBLY BILL 66 in 1997, and if it clears the Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee on Thursday, it will mark the furthest progress this common sense reform has ever advanced on its own.

Campaign fund raising while the state budget is being considered is an obvious conflict of interest and this nefarious practice has accelerated in recent years. Just last evening, State Senator **Ted Kanavas** (R-Brookfield) held an unprecedented fourth campaign fund raising event since the 2005-06 biennial budget was submitted to the legislature by Governor **Jim Doyle** this past February 8th. Kanavas represents an utterly safe Republican state senate district and in 2002 did not even have an opponent! His campaign fund raising is clearly for some other office. Doyle, after denouncing Assembly Speaker **John Gard** (R-Peshtigo) for holding campaign fund raising events during the 2003 budget period, has reversed his position and has now held at least three such events to collect campaign cash since February. CC/WI projects that Doyle may collect as much as **\$3 million** during the period from January 1st of this year, until the 2005-06 budget bill is signed into law, probably in late July or early August.

A comprehensive campaign finance reform measure that failed in the State Senate on March 16th, **Senate Bill 46**, contained a similar prohibition on fund raising during the budget period. Kanavas voted against it and Governor Doyle opposed it -- both primarily because of this provision (but, of course, that is not what they publicly state as their reason for opposing the **Ellis-Risser** bipartisan legislation that was defeated 20 to 13).

Assembly Bill 66 is actually even a little stronger than just a prohibition on fund raising during the budget period. Assembly Bill 66 prohibits campaign fund raising from first week in January of odd numbered (budget)years, while the budget is usually delivered to the legislature in early February. So much the better!

This measure has wide bipartisan support. At introduction earlier this year, Assembly Bill 66 had the primary sponsorship of Rep. **Stephen Freese** (R-Dodgeville), the Chair of the Assembly Campaigns & Elections Committee, and Sen. **Sheila Harsdorf** (R-River Falls), long a strong supporter of campaign

05/25/2005

finance reform. Co-sponsoring AB 66 are: Rep. **Gary Bies** (R-Sister Bay), Rep. **Spencer Black** (D-Madison), Sen. **Rob Cowles** (R-Allouez), Rep. **Gene Hahn** (R-Cambria), Rep. **J.A. "Doc" Hines** (R-Oxford), Rep. **Suzanne Jeskewitz** (R-Monomonee Falls), Sen. **Alan Lasee** (R-De Pere), Rep. **John Lehman** (D-Racine), Rep. **Mark Pocan** (D-Madison), Sen. **Carol Roessler** (R-Oshkosh) and Rep. **John Townsend** (R-Fond du Lac).

In February, ten legislators signed the CC/WI "pledge" not to solicit or accept campaign contributions while the 2005-06 budget is being considered: Rep. **Spencer Black** (D-Madison), Sen. **Tim Carpenter** (D-Milwaukee), Sen. **Rob Cowles** (R-Green Bay), Sen. **Michael Ellis** (R-Neenah), Sen. **Sheila Harsdorf** (R-River Falls), Rep. **Peggy Krusick** (D-Milwaukee), Rep. **John Lehman** (D-Racine), Rep. **Mark Pocan** (D-Madison), Sen. **Fred Risser** (D-Madison), and Rep. **Marlin Schneider** (D-Wisconsin Rapids). Assembly Bill 66, if considered, passed, and enacted into law this year, would take effect January 1, 2007.

An executive session that will include a vote on Assembly Bill 66 will immediately follow a public hearing on other legislation being held before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections beginning at 9:30 AM tomorrow -- Thursday, May 26th in Assembly Hearing Room 300 NorthEast of the State Capitol.

The members of the committee, which you can contact urging their vote to advance Assembly Bill 66 are: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us, Republican of Dodgeville; Rep.Travis@legis.state.wi.us, Democrat of Madison; Rep.Gundrum@legis.state.wi.us, Republican of New Berlin; Rep.Wood@legis.state.wi.us, Republican of Chippewa Falls; Rep.Kessler@legis.state.wi.us, Democrat of Milwaukee; and Rep.Vos@legis.state.wi.us, Republican of Racine.

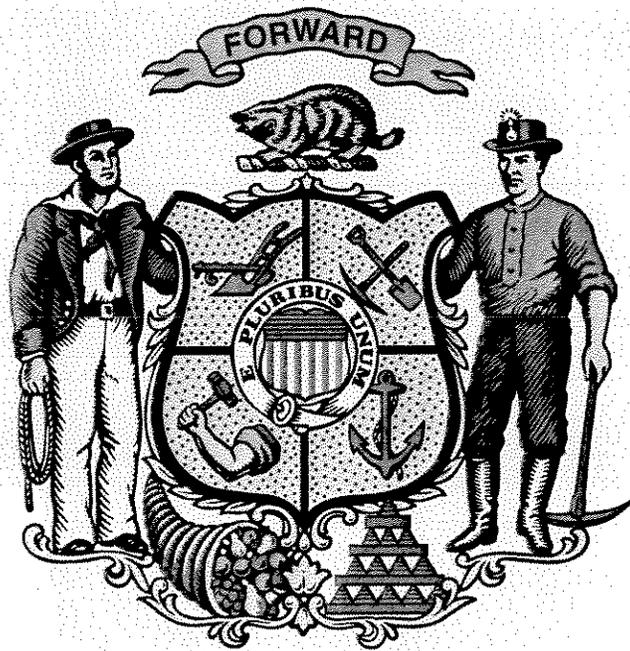
Want Good Government? Join Common Cause In Wisconsin!

Please donate generously to support our work!

Call 608/256-2686, reply to this message, or visit the CC/WI website:

www.commoncause.org/states/wisconsin

Jay Heck, executive director

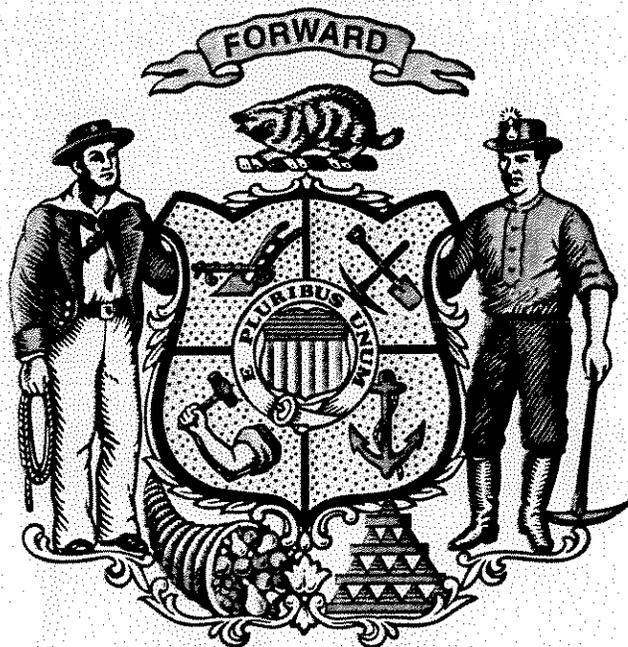


Griffiths, Terri

From: Adela Baumhardt [adelbaum@northnet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 1:41 PM
To: Rep.Freese
Cc: Rep.Gundrum; Rep.Kessler
Subject: Assembly Bill 66

Please show your support and vote for Assembly Bill 66; this is a first step towards cleaner government.

adelbaum@northnet.net
Oshkosh, WI



Griffiths, Terri

From: Common Cause In Wisconsin/Jay Heck [ccwisjwh@itis.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 10:56 AM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: "Clean Budget" Campaign Finance Reform Measure Advances!

CONTACT: Jay Heck - 608/256-2686 **FOR RELEASE:** 10:45 AM - June 8, 2005

MEASURE TO BAN CAMPAIGN FUND RAISING DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS CLEARS ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

Legislation that would prohibit incumbent state legislators and statewide elected official officials from accepting campaign contributions while the state biennial budget is being written cleared the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections earlier this morning. The measure, Assembly Bill 66, is now available for scheduling for consideration and a vote in the full State Assembly. This reform was devised and first proposed by Common Cause in Wisconsin in 1997 and today's action marks the furthest it has ever advanced as "stand alone" legislation.

Those voting to advance Assembly Bill 66 were: Rep. **Stephen Freese** (R-Dodgeville), the Chair of the Committee and a sponsor of the legislation; Rep. **David Travis** (D-Madison) and Rep. **Fred Kessler** (D-Milwaukee). Those voting against advancing AB 66 were: Rep. **Mark Gundrum** (R-New Berlin); Rep. **Jeff Wood** (R-Chippewa Falls) and Rep. **Robin Vos** (R-Racine). Legislation can be advanced on a tie committee vote.

Assembly Bill 66 would prohibit incumbent partisan elective officials, or their campaign committees, from accepting any contribution for the purpose of promoting that official's nomination or reelection during the period beginning on the first Monday in January in each odd-numbered year and ending in the enactment of the biennial budget act.

AB 66 was amended this morning to extend the prohibition on campaign fund raising to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor (or the Governor-elect and Lieutenant Governor-elect) from the day after the election in the previous November, through enactment of the budget. This makes sense because the Governor is preparing the budget for submission to the Legislature during the period between the election and the introduction to the Legislature of the budget the following late January or early February. AB 66 was also amended to prevent incumbent any candidate for state office from soliciting campaign funds for any other political committee--not just her or his own--while the budget bill is being written.

Opponents of the legislation said that it would be a problem if they received an unsolicited campaign contribution during the budget period and they had to send it back. We disagree. We think anyone who had their campaign contribution returned with a letter saying that such contributions were not acceptable while the state budget is being considered would be mightily impressed by the integrity of both the legislator returning the contribution and by the cleaner process.

 Rep. Freese had it right when he said, "Appearance is the problem. When the public loses confidence in our governance, we (legislators) all lose something." Freese said that fund raising while the state budget

is under consideration erodes public confidence in public policy making. We would add that it also compromises public policy decision-making itself and that it is a huge conflict of interest.

Freese's staff told us that he and other members of the committee received many communications from CC/WI members urging support for Assembly Bill 66, so many thanks for your efforts to make this possible. On to the full Assembly!

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* issued a timely editorial today in support of AB 66 which you can access here: Editorial: "Keeping the Budget Clean," June 9, 2005:
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/jun05/332214.asp>

And earlier this week, CC/WI spent an hour on the statewide "Ideas Network" of *Wisconsin Public Radio* making the case for Assembly Bill 66 in a program hosted by Ben Merens. You can listen to the program by clicking on Listen.....


Listen

"Campaign contributions during budget negotiations should be a thing of the past. That's according to Ben Merens guest after four (on June 7th), who supports a bill going before a legislative committee this week. Guest: Jay Heck, executive director of Common Cause in Wisconsin"

Want Good Government? Join Common Cause In Wisconsin!
Call 608/256-2686, reply to this message, or write:
CC/WI, P.O. Box 2596, Madison, WI 53701-2597
Jay Heck, executive director