

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_sb0046_AC-CE_pt02**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

Richard, Rob

From: Common Cause In Wisconsin/Jay Heck [ccwisjwh@itis.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 7:13 PM

To: Undisclosed-Recipient;

Subject: The Fight for Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform Begins in the State Senate

Wednesday's 5 to 0 vote in favor of **Senate Bill 46**, the Ellis-Risser Bipartisan Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform measure, in the State Senate Committee on Campaign Finance Reform & Ethics, was a tremendous victory for reform and the unanimous support for reporting it to the full Senate for floor consideration was somewhat unexpected but extremely gratifying.

But this big win in the committee does not mean that Senate Bill 46 will sail through the full State Senate when it is brought to the floor for consideration, hopefully soon. There are Republicans and Democrats who will attack this legislation, albeit for different reasons.

Already, the opponents of this measure are contacting State Senators and the media telling anyone who will listen that Senate Bill 46 does too much, or it does too little, that this reform measure is unworkable, flawed, too restrictive or not restrictive enough.

Misleading and even totally untrue "facts" about Senate Bill 46 are being circulated in an attempt to portray this bipartisan measure in the worst possible light and there will be attempts to try to sever the strong bond that has been forged between pro-reform Democrats and Republicans who have put aside many partisan differences to unite behind this measure.

At the public hearing on Senate Bill 46 yesterday, a leading critic of the legislation was asked if he were in the legislature, how he would vote on this reform measure if amendments to improve it were defeated. This critic declined to answer! How telling.

But State Senators will, as a result of our efforts in the committee yesterday, have to make the decision about whether to vote for or against this measure and that is critically important. The citizens of this state deserve to know which of their legislators just talk about the need to reform and which will actually stand behind their words and deliver their vote in favor of Senate Bill 46. On record now, in favor of Senate Bill 46--either through their vote yesterday or from their announced support are Democratic Senators **Fred Risser** of Madison, **Mark Miller** of Monona, **Tim Carpenter** of Milwaukee, **Julie Lassa** of Stevens Point and **Bob Wirch** of Kenosha who appears to be leaning toward support. They are joined by Republican Senators **Mike Ellis** of Neenah, **Rob Cowles** of Allouez, **Sheila Harsdorf** of River Falls, **Alan Lasee** of DePere and **Dale Schultz** of Richland Center, the Senate Majority Leader. Republican **Neal Kedzie** of Elkhorn voted to send Senate Bill 46 to the floor but it is not certain whether he would vote for it for passage. Without Wirch, the count in favor of passage is 9. To pass in the State Senate, Senate Bill 46 needs 17 votes -- both Republican and Democratic. Possible? Yes. Easy? Definitely No!

The citizens of this state deserve to have this reform bill debated and deserve a roll call vote in the State Senate and then in the Assembly on reform. As the former State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Democratic State Representative from Shawano County, **Bert Grover** says in strongly supporting Senate Bill 46, "we have to get Matilda to the dance floor." Senate Bill 46 is Matilda and the citizens of this state need to see how she dances on the State Senate floor. This is the only vehicle available for campaign finance reform and the only chance we have to get new reforms in place for the 2006 elections.

As CC/WI, Senator Mike Ellis and Senator Fred Risser and other pro-reform legislators have said repeatedly, we know this is not a perfect reform bill. We wish it could be. We wish we could include "sum sufficient"

03/04/2005

public financing and we wish we could require full disclosure of the corporate donors to so-called issue ads in this bill. But it is an absolute cold, hard fact that if we did, Senate Bill 46 would be dead on arrival in the State Assembly, even if it passed in the State Senate. The floor in front of the Assembly chamber in the State Capitol is littered with the corpses of more "perfect" campaign finance reform legislation that couldn't get in the door--blocked and then murdered by the Assembly leadership. Senate Bill 46 can't be as easily killed.

Senate Bill 46 contains vastly more public financing than exists currently and significantly more disclosure requirements for groups running issue ads and the measure contains additional sources of public financing and there are other avenues open to secure the full disclosure that all reformers are seeking. It prohibits campaign fund raising while the state budget is being considered, it eliminates the special interest funded slush funds of the legislative leadership and it sets new, realistic spending limits with stronger incentives for candidates to abide by them. There are reforms Wisconsin needs and that are worth fighting for.

This is absolutely workable legislation that would vastly improve current law and it would lay the foundation for further reform. There will some State Senators who are adamantly opposed to any campaign finance reform and will vote against this measure. But make no mistake about it, there will be other State Senators who will claim this legislation is "not good enough" and will seek political cover for opposing this legislation because it doesn't do all that they think needs to be done. These same legislators and the critics of Senate Bill 46 who assert this legislation isn't strong enough never explain how they propose to get reform "better" than this passed in this Legislature given its present partisan political configuration. We do. Senate Bill 46 is the best opportunity to reform Wisconsin's corrupted and throughly ineffective campaign finance law in 28 years. We must not let it slip away.

In a recent editorial, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* said in support of Senate Bill 46, "**Voters should be leery of opponents trying to jam up this bill because it isn't "perfect." The bill is simply a much needed start to get us to clean and open government. For that reason, voters should look closely who votes for, against of vetoes this bill. It will be as close to a litmus test as voters will have this year to determine which politicians are really on their side.**"

Please, contact your **State Senator** in the next day or two and tell them to vote for Senate Bill 46! To do so go [here](#). And Please, don't put it off!

If you are not sure who your State Senator is, [go here](#)

Or, call the CC/WI office (608/256-2686) and we'll tell you who you should contact.

You can read several good news accounts about how Senate Bill 46 passed in the State Senate committee yesterday. Here is *The (Madison) Capital Times* story:
<http://www.madison.com/tct/news/stories/index.php?ntid=30692&ntpid=0>

And one of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's daily newspapers, *The Badger Herald*, carried this excellent, in-depth article about the battle over Senate Bill 46:
"Campaign Finance Reform Back on Senate's Agenda" March 3, 2005:
http://badgerherald.com/news/2005/03/03/campaign_finance_ref.php

Milwaukee's weekly newspaper, the *Shepherd Express*, carried this short but sweet article about this issue:
"Campaign Finance Reform Is Back" March 3, 2005:
<http://www.shepherd-express.com/inthehalls.htm>

And the *Appleton Post-Crescent*, which endorsed Senate Bill 46 last December, before it was introduced, endorsed it again today in this editorial:

"Campaign Reform Bill Imperfect, But Significant" - March 3, 2005:

http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/opinion_20059209.shtml

One of primary co-sponsors of Senate Bill 46, Democratic State Senator **Fred Risser** of Madison, who has served longer in the Wisconsin Legislature than any other person in history, wrote this excellent essay that appeared in *The Capital Times* Tuesday:

<http://www.madison.com/tct/opinion//index.php?ntid=30344&ntpid=2>

And finally, you can read CC/WI's **testimony** (and release) in support of Senate Bill 46 in which we answer the critics and make the case for supporting this measure:

<http://www.wispolitics.com/index.ihtml?Article=32643>

And please do not forget to contact your state senator and urge their vote for Senate Bill 46! You will feel better for having done so!

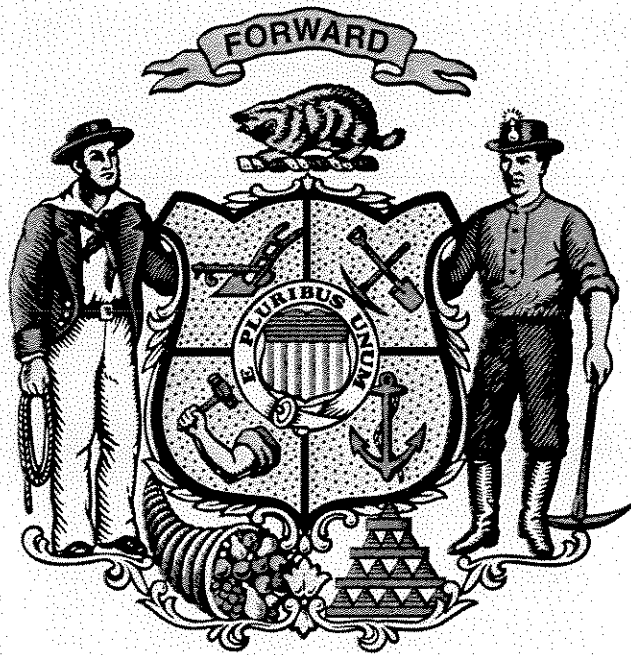
Thanks.

Want Good Government? Join Common Cause In Wisconsin!

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

www.commoncause.org/states/wisconsin

Jay Heck, executive director



Richard, Rob

From: Common Cause In Wisconsin/Jay Heck [ccwisjwh@itis.com]

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 12:52 PM

To: Undisclosed-Recipient;

Subject: Editorial Support Growing for Senate Bill 46 - Ellis-Risser Campaign Finance Reform Measure

Republican and Democratic State Senators continue to digest the details of Senate Bill 46, the Ellis-Risser bipartisan comprehensive campaign finance reform measure that unanimously cleared the Senate Committee on Campaign Finance Reform & Ethics Committee last week. Meanwhile, editorial support for Senate Bill 46 continues to grow as Wisconsin newspapers step up their call for the legislature and Governor Doyle to take up reform now, so that it would be in place for the upcoming 2006 statewide and legislative elections.

Yesterday, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, the state's largest newspaper, editorialized about this very matter and made the case as to why state senators ought to put the public interest ahead of their own narrow self-interest and vote for Senate Bill 46. **"Too many state senators are still balking at exceedingly reasonable compromise campaign finance reform legislation now before them. The antidote is remembering that serving their or their party caucus' narrow self interest was not the reason they were sent to Madison,"** the MJS said. Read the complete editorial, "Senators, Forget Self-Interest," March 9, 2005: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/mar05/308082.asp>

The *Journal Sentinel* has editorialized in favor of Senate Bill 46 five times in the past six weeks because of the urgency for the legislature and the governor to act on this issue. You can read all of them here:

"A Rigged System for Voters," - Sunday, March 6, 2005

"Senate Bill is the Best Hope," - Sunday, February 27, 2005

"Stop the Insanity of Campaign Spending," - Sunday, February 20, 2005

"Campaign Finance Reform Must Be Issue No. 1." - Sunday, January 30, 2005

Last Sunday, *The Capital Times* made a powerful and persuasive case as to why progressives and all reformers ought to unite in favor of Senate Bill 46. **"Unfortunately, some progressive activists and groups have taken it upon themselves to actively oppose Senate Bill 46. Their opposition makes no sense. Thus, the foes of SB 46 are telling Wisconsinites that we must live with current pay-to-play system because they have not been able to build an effective movement for a pure alternative. That's a ridiculous, not to mention embarrassing, argument that should not be taken seriously by citizens or by legislators."** You can access this entire "must read" March 6th editorial in *The Capital Times* here: "Step One for Cleaner Wisconsin Campaigns."

Also last Sunday, *The Sheboygan Press* weighed in to support Senate Bill 46, saying, "A serious attempt at campaign finance reform in Wisconsin cleared its first hurdle last week on a road we hope leads to passage and approval by the governor." Read the entire endorsement "Campaign Finance Reform Long Overdue" http://www.wisinfo.com/sheboyganpress/news/archive/opinion_20041767.shtml

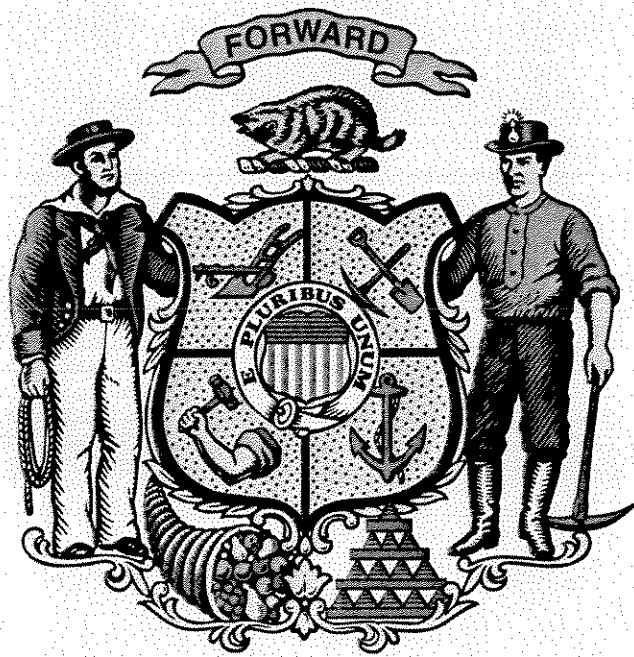
Other Wisconsin newspapers recently endorsing Senate Bill 46 include the *Appleton Post-Crescent*, which endorsed Senate Bill 46 last December, before it was introduced, and now has endorsed it again last week in this editorial of March 3rd: "Campaign Reform Bill Imperfect, But Significant," http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/opinion_20059209.shtml

In addition to the aforementioned papers, the *Oshkosh Northwestern* on February 22nd: http://www.wisinfo.com/northwestern/news/opinion/stories/opinion_19937552.shtml; *The Lacrosse Tribune* on February 2nd: <http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2005/02/03/opinion/00edit03.txt> and the *Wisconsin State Journal* on January 23rd, have all

supported Senate Bill 46. No Wisconsin paper has opposed it.

Have you weighed in with your State Senator to tell her or him to support Senate Bill 46 yet? **Find your senator [here](#) and please urge them to vote for Senate Bill 46.** You can either call them directly or you can call the toll-free legislative hot line (1-800-362-9472) once you identify your State Senator. Thanks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at ccwisjwh@itris.com or call the Common Cause in Wisconsin office at 608/256-2686.



Richard, Rob

From: Common Cause In Wisconsin/Jay Heck [ccwisjwh@itis.com]

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2005 9:37 AM

To: Undisclosed-Recipient;

Subject: Senate Bill 46 Means Less "Partying"/Keep Outside Players Out/Another Endorsement of SB 46

In Today's Common Cause in Wisconsin "Reform Watch" Update:

1. **Party Pooper: You'd miss these "fun" events if reform bill is enacted.**
 2. **MJS Editorial: "Keep Outside Players Out"**
 3. **Another Wisconsin Daily Paper Endorses Senate Bill 46**
-

1. End Campaign Fund Raising During the Budget: One major provision of **Senate Bill 46**, the Ellis-Risser comprehensive campaign finance reform measure that unanimously cleared the Senate Campaign Finance Reform & Ethics Committee on March 2nd, would prohibit campaign fund raising by state wide officials and legislators while the bstate budget is being written. The conflict of interest between raising campaign funds and making decisions about how taxpayer money will be spent is obvious and other states, including Minnesota, prohibit the practice.

But currently, fund raising events, mail appeals and direct solicitations for campaign cash--much of it from special interest groups with a lot at stake in what is included, or not included, in the state budget--is ongoing and it accelerates as work on the budget creeps nearer and nearer to completion.

Some want to be able to continue to raise campaign cash during the budget. It's one of the most lucrative times to do it, afterall. Why would you kill this golden goose? This is, reportedly, one of Governor Doyle's major objections to Senate Bill 46. It would prohibit events like these that are scheduled in just the next couple of weeks:

Thursday, March 17, 2005, 5-6:30 pm: Governor Doyle's Annual St. Patrick's Day Party, Madison's, 119 King St, Madison. Suggested contribution: \$25. Please RSVP by March 14 to Katie Boyce at (608) 250-5083 or via e-mail at katie@jimdoyle.org

4:30-6:30 pm: **St. Patrick's Day Reception and Fundraiser with Senate Democratic Leader Judy Robson**, Joe's Fire House, 2683 Prairie Ave, Beloit. Irish fare and refreshments served. Sponsor: \$1000. Host \$250. Suggested minimum: \$100. All contributions gratefully accepted. Individual and conduit preferred. Call Jason at (608) 260-2403 for more information or to RSVP. Checks payable to "Friends of Judy Robson", 2546 Shopiere Rd, Beloit, WI, 53511.

Monday, March 21, 2005, 5:30-7:30 pm: Fundraiser for Senator Ted Kanavas, Rotunda, 235 W. Broadway, Waukesha. \$25 per person. No PAC please. Questions please call Laura Gralton at (414) 881-1005.

5:30-7:30 pm: **St. Patrick's Party with Senator Roger Breske**, Chet & Emil's, 348 Maple Dr, Birnamwood. All contributions gratefully accepted. Breske for Senate, 8800 Hwy 29, Eland, WI, 54427.

Tuesday, March 22, 2005, 9 am: End of Season Hunt with Rep. Jim Kreuser, Halter Wildlife, 96626 113th St, Pleasant Prairie. Morning Hunt: 9-Noon. Afternoon Hunt: 1:30-4:30 pm. Lunch: Noon-1 pm. \$350 per person includes hunt and lunch. Limited space available. Call ahead to reserve your spot (262) 553-5555.

Monday, March 28, 2005 5-7 pm: Rep. Terri McCormick St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Campaign Event, Sky Club East, 1229 Gillingham Rd, Neenah. Program at 6:15 pm. \$50 suggested contribution at the door, \$250 to join the host committee. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Tuesday, March 29, 2005, 6:30-8 pm: Rep. Mark Honadel's 49th Birthday Bash, Pat's Oak Manor, 1804 15th Ave, South Milwaukee. Come enjoy cake and beverage with Mark. Suggested donation: \$49. Please make checks payable to: Honadel for Assembly, 1219 Manitoba Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI, 53172. For more information call Jeff or Julie at (414) 571-5247.

That's just what's is scheduled for the rest of March. Fund raising during budget consideration really picks up in April and May.

03/14/2005

2. Keep Outside Players

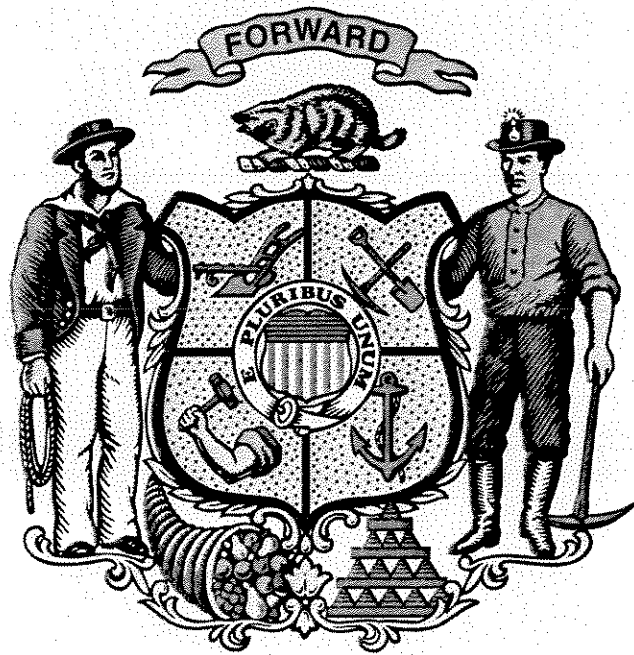
Out: Sunday's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* issued yet another compelling reason why Senate Bill 46 ought to be passed in the State Senate and Assembly and enacted into law. It makes the case that when outside special interest groups outspend the candidates themselves in state election contests, it isn't just an exercise of "democracy in action" or a demonstration of their "free speech" rights.

"It simply is not healthy to have this much power invested in the hands of groups who just happen to have a lot of disposable income and many interests in need of legislative attention. The power should be in the hands of the candidates competing on a playing field leveled by public financing and voters at the ballot box who can listen to the arguments without the outside cacophony," the MJS opined.

The editorial also says, **"Voting for this bill [Senate Bill 46] will, no doubt, require courage from legislators. They may have to stand up caucuses or their party leaders, whether they sit in the Senate, Assembly or the statehouse. And, they will likely, if they haven't already, hear from interest groups that do not relish giving up leverage."** Which is precisely the reason they should vote for it, of course! Read this entire editorial here: Editorial: "Keep Outside Players Out" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* - March 13, 2005: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/mar05/308827.asp>

3. Northern Wisconsin Paper Says Yes to Senate Bill 46: *The Daily Press* of Ashland on Sunday joined the growing ranks of Wisconsin newspapers endorsing Senate Bill 46. **"The bill may not be everything proponents of campaign finance reform may hope for, but it's the best we are going to get this session, and it is a significant first step,"** says *The Daily Press*. We agree. You can access it here: Editorial: "Half a Loaf or More" *The (Ashland) Daily Press* - March 13, 2005: http://www.ashlandwi.com/placed/index.php?sect_rank=6&story_id=196000

Want Good Government? Join Common Cause In Wisconsin!
Call 608/256-2686, reply to this message, or visit the CC/WI website:
www.commoncause.org/states/wisconsin
Jay Heck, executive director



Richard, Rob

From: Common Cause In Wisconsin/Jay Heck [ccwisjwh@itis.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2005 5:58 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: VOTE ON WEDNESDAY ON SENATE BILL 46 -- CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM -- IN STATE SENATE!
 Contact: Jay Heck - 608/256-2686 Release: 5:45 PM - March 15, 2005

STATE SENATE WILL CONSIDER AND VOTE ON CAMPAIGN

FINANCE REFORM WEDNESDAY!

Contact Your State Senator in Support of Senate Bill 46!

On Wednesday, March 16th, **Senate Bill 46** -- the bipartisan comprehensive campaign finance reform measure sponsored by **Sen. Michael Ellis (R-Neenah)** and **Sen. Fred Risser (D-Madison)** and others will be considered and voted on in the Wisconsin State Senate. The announcement came late this afternoon.

Under a special order of business, Senate Bill 46 will come to the floor of the State Senate on Wednesday at about 11:00 AM for debate and consideration.

Common Cause in Wisconsin strongly supports the measure -- the first comprehensive campaign finance reform measure that actually has a chance of passing in both legislative chambers and then has a fighting chance of becoming law -- since 1977. Senate Bill 46 is also endorsed by former Democratic Governor **Tony Earl**, by former State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Bert Grover**, former Republican Party of Wisconsin Chair **Ody Fish**, former Republican Strategist **Bill Kraus**, former Democratic State Representative **Stan Gruszynski**, former Republican state representative **David Martin** and many others.

The vote tomorrow is expected to be extremely close.

There is determined opposition to Senate Bill 46 from guardians of the corrupt *status quo* which include special interest groups like Wisconsin Right to Life and from Governor **Jim Doyle**, who has quietly put out the word among Senate Democrats that he does not want this campaign finance reform measure to pass and which if enacted into law, would be effective as of January 1, 2006.

Most opposition in the State Senate to Senate Bill 46 is because the measure is strong and would force real change, not because it is not strong enough, as some critics have charged. Opponents may say the bill is not "perfect" because it lacks "sum sufficient" public financing or complete disclosure of donors to so-called issue ad groups, but don't be fooled. The real reason many senators oppose this measure is because of what it will do, not because of what it doesn't do.

Here are the major provisions of the Senate Bill 46, which would:

- * Increase the current and inadequate \$1 check off for public financing on the state income tax form to \$5 with a partisan option to make checking off the money (which would not increase tax liability or decrease the refund) more attractive.

- * Create an additional source of funding for candidates through the creation of a Public Integrity Endowment (PIE) to be set up and administered through the State Elections Board. Individuals, unions, corporations,

foundations and anyone else interested in cleaning up state government could contribute to the PIE and be eligible for a 100 percent tax credit. (There is currently no additional source of public funding--only the \$1 check off).

* Provide candidates with increased funding for public grants if they agree to abide by revised spending limits and provide complying candidates with additional public funding equal to the amount over the spending limit that their non-complying opponent spends up to three times the spending limit. (There is currently no such provision in place).

* Provide candidates who are the targets of outside spending by independent expenditure groups or those who run so-called "issue ads" (that depict a candidate 60 days or less before the general election or 30 days or less before the primary) with public funding matches up to three times the spending limit. (There is currently no such provision in place).

* Require the disclosure by issue ad groups of how much they are spending against targeted candidates. (Currently no disclosure whatsoever is required of these groups).

* Prohibit campaign fund-raising by legislators and statewide elected officials from the date the biennial state budget is introduced until it is enacted into law. (Currently fund raising is rampant during the budget period).

* Abolish legislative campaign committees which legislative leaders have utilized to decrease the independence of legislators and which have created, at the very least, the appearance of corruption through the solicitation for campaign contributions in return for the consideration of pending legislation. (Currently, LCCs collect hundreds of thousands of dollars of special interest money).

* Limit transfers of much of the out-of-state campaign money into Wisconsin that currently flows into this state and limits special interest committee transfers. (Currently hundreds of thousands of dollars of out of state money flows into Wisconsin and money moves freely between special interest groups).

These are sweeping and significant reforms that CC/WI strongly believes are worth fighting for and their enactment into law would mark a significant step forward in cleaning up Wisconsin. If they were in place we would have a vastly improved (even if not perfect) political environment. We emphatically disagree with those who say no reform is better than this reform. And there are those who will make that case tomorrow.

If you have not yet done so, **please contact your state senator** immediately and urge their vote in favor of Senate Bill 46. You can call tomorrow morning on the state's legislative "hotline" at 1-800-362-9472 if you know who your state senator is. But you must call between 9 and 11 AM! Or, [go here](#), and you can contact your state senator by e-mail or using their direct phone line. If you do not know who your state senator e-mail us at ccwisjwh@itis.com or call 608/256-2686.

Wisconsin's daily newspapers have overwhelmingly supported Senate Bill 46. Here are excerpts from the many editorials that have been written in favor of this important legislation.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (which has published six editorials during the past six weeks urging passage of Senate Bill 46) :

"Simply, any state politician who does not vote for this measure will have, for all practical purposes chosen sides. He or she will be for special interest politics that amount to legal bribery, for re-election at any cost and

against cleaner, more accountable government." (1/30/05)

"We know that a stalemate in sham pursuit of the "perfect" bill is really just a vote for the status quo." (1/30/05)

"Voters should be leery of opponents trying to jam up this bill because it isn't "perfect." The bill is simply a start to get us to clean and open government. For that reason, voters should look very closely at who votes for, against or vetoes this bill. It will be as close to a litmus test as voters will have this year to determine which politicians are really on their side." (2/20/05)

"This legislation is the best hope to build the foundation to support more reform down the road. And, in our book, something is better than nothing with this issue. And this bill delivers a lot. In creating public financing where virtually none exists now, in supplying provisions that do much to defang the outside spending groups and special interests buying our elections - and our elected officials - and in bringing some sunshine to the spending these groups do, SB 46 is the kind of foundation atop which we will only have to finish the attic." (2/27/05)

"Too many state senators are still balking at exceedingly reasonable compromise campaign finance reform legislation now before them. The antidote is remembering that serving their own or their party caucus' narrow self-interest was *not* the reason they were sent to Madison." (3/10/05)

"Voters should pay attention to all the votes here, Republican and Democratic. We certainly will be. Voting for this bill will, no doubt, require courage from legislators. They may have to stand up to their caucuses or their leaders, whether they sit in the Senate, Assembly or in the statehouse. (3/13/05)

The Capital Times: "SB 46 is not the end of the road to reform. It is only the beginning. But those who want broader reform need to recognize will not be advanced by doing nothing. Enacting SB 46 will move Wisconsin in the direction of reform. Thwarting it will only satisfy Gov. Jim Doyle, Assembly Speaker John Gard and the special interest lobbies, such as Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, that want to preserve the corrupted and corrupting current system." (3/6/05)

The Sheboygan Press: "A serious attempt at campaign finance reform is on a road that we hope leads to passage and approval by the governor. Senate Bill 46...a joint effort...while not unheard of in Madison, is a breath of fresh air given the acrimonious sparring over the state budget." (3/6/05)

Appleton Post Crescent: "[Senate Bill 46] is not perfect. It's the product of years of negotiation and compromise. But it lays a foundation, and addresses the most current system's most abominable deficiencies, and must not languish. Get it through the Senate in March and onto the Assembly. We've waited much too long." (3/3/05)

The Ashland Daily Press: "Senate Bill 46 is the best hope for any meaningful campaign finance reform in Wisconsin. The bill may not be everything proponents may hope for, but it's the best we are going to get this session, and it is a significant first step. Senate Bill 46 offers those in favor of campaign finance reform more than half a loaf. We should take this now, and hope for more in future years." (3/13/05)

Oshkosh Northwestern: "The logic of Senate Bill 46 is that it is a law that gets the state moving toward campaign finance reform. The people understand the need for this kind of law. Now we need to convince the Assembly and the Senate." (2/22/05)

Wisconsin State Journal: "If reformers seek real change, they must heed the lessons of their perennial political whappings. It would be better to unite now around passage of this compromise plan, and then work to improve it in future years." (1/23/05)

La Crosse Tribune: "Voters should demand that the Legislature enact Ellis & Risser's proposed reforms." (2/3/05)

Green Bay Press Gazette: "We know that the 2006 campaign will be expensive. What we should remember is that any candidate running on a campaign-finance reform agenda is just posing for holy pictures. We need action on campaign-finance reform, not words." (2/2/05)

No Wisconsin newspaper has opposed passage of Senate Bill 46!

Want Good Government? Join Common Cause In Wisconsin!
Call 608/256-2686, reply to this message, or visit the CC/WI website:
www.commoncause.org/states/wisconsin
Jay Heck, executive director