

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON STRENGTHENING UTAH'S DEMOCRACY

RECOMMENDATION FOR REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF EMPLOYMENT DATA

SPONSORED BY ACTING CHAIR KIRK JOWERS

Whereas, candidates for state office must report the name and address of any individual or entity giving contributions or public service assistance with a fair market value over \$50;

Whereas, Utah does not require candidates for state office to report the occupation or employer of individuals giving contributions or public service assistance;

Whereas, Utah already requires non-candidate committees to report the occupations of individuals who give over \$50;

Whereas, the majority of states require that candidates disclose contributors' occupations and employers;

Whereas, the Commission believes that requiring political committees to report the occupation and employer of individuals who give more than \$50 is important because, "Without occupation and employer reporting, it is much more difficult to enforce the disclosure laws and determine if certain groups may be trying to influence the political process";

In order to bring greater transparency to the Utah electoral process, the Commission hereby recommends that the Utah Code be amended to require that all state political committees, including candidate committees, be required to exercise their "best efforts" to obtain, maintain, and report the name, address, occupation, and employer of any individual who gives more than \$50 in contributions or public service assistance. A committee would be deemed to exercise its "best efforts" if: (1) all of the committee's solicitations include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor's name, address, occupation, and employer; (2) the committee lacks the name, address, occupation, or employer for any contributor of over \$50, the committee makes at least one good-faith attempt to collect the missing information within 30 days of receiving the contribution or public service assistance.

**APPROVED 16-2 (1 ABSENT)
JUNE 18, 2009**

VOTING TO APPROVE

Acting Chair Kirk Jowers, Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Randy Dryer, Yvette D. Donosso, Dave Hansen, Meghan Holbrook, Bruce Hough, Senator Scott Jenkins, Dan Jones, Tom Love, Dick Richards, Dee Rowland, Steve Starks, Ken Verdoia, LaVarr Webb, Doug Wright

VOTING AGAINST APPROVAL

Representative Craig Frank, Frank Pignanelli