

Stuart Relay

From: sharon whytal [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 3:41 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Honorable Representatives:

Please pass this important legislation to ensure that it's not money that buys our politicians, but state residents who put our hard-earned money where we want to make a difference. Thank you, Respectfully,

sharon whytal
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Mike Edgington [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9:24 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear House State Affairs Committee members

I am writing in support of HB16 which would reinstate campaign finance limits. Please pass this through the committee so it can be brought to the floor of the house for a vote in substantially its current form.

Alaskans strongly support reasonable campaign contribution limits. This has clearly been shown by previous ballot votes and support for the latest ballot initiative. In fact I spent a couple of weeks as a volunteer signature gatherer for the recent petition. That experience showed that most regular Alaskans were initially surprised to hear that we have no campaign limits, and thought it was obvious that we should reinstate them at a reasonable level. Almost everybody wanted the the voices of regular Alaskans to be heard by their elected officials and not drowned out by big money.

It was also very striking how bipartisan the issue was, even extending to those who said they rarely voted and were not interested in politics.

Please pass this bill through committee and bring it to the floor so contribution limits can be reinstated in time for the 2026 statewide election.

Regards,

Mike Edgington
Girdwood

Stuart Relay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:17 PM
To: House State Affairs; Rep. Ashley Carrick; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Rep. Ky Holland; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Elexie Moore
Cc: Rep. Calvin Schrage; Amanda Ndemo; 'Kevin Morford'; 'Bruce Botelho'
Subject: Background for HB16: campaign finance law in Alaska
Attachments: support for HB 16.pdf

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Background for HB16: campaign finance law in Alaska

Prepared by Sharman Haley, Alaska Move to Amend

Once upon a time, Alaska's Campaign Finance Law was one of the strictest in the country. In 1995, citizens were disgusted with the corruption in politics. We filed an initiative to strictly regulate campaign ethics and finances, including lowering the limits on individual campaign contributions from \$1000 to \$500. The legislature responded to the initiative call and stepped up to enact the new law.

The stated purpose of the new law was "to restore the public's trust in the electoral process and to foster good government." That was the very year that a major corruption scandal emerged in Alaska. Six legislators, known as the Corrupt Bastards Club, were ultimately indicted for accepting bribes from Bill Allen of the oil field services company VECO.

Seven years later, the legislature took it upon themselves to raise the limits back up to \$1000. The people of Alaska were furious. We stepped up again and reinstated the \$500 limits through a citizens' initiative, which passed with overwhelming, 73% support. Voters said in effect we want the law to be strict: it protects our balance of power as voters and constituents. It limits the disproportionate influence and corrupting power of big money in our elections.

Come 2010, the Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United struck down provisions of the solidly bi-partisan federal Campaign Finance Act, holding that spending by SuperPACS could not be limited. The Alaska AG advised the Alaska Public Offices Commission to stop enforcing the corresponding section of Alaska's law. As a predictable result, between 2008 and 2020, unregulated independent expenditures increased from 3% to 36% of campaign spending in our state. Including the ballot measures, independent expenditures for the 2020 election exceeded \$23 million. In 2022, 88% of the independent expenditure funds were from Outside donors This flood of big money into Alaska elections is a source of concern for Alaskans across the political spectrum.

The assault on Alaska's campaign finance law continues. Following guidance from the US. Supreme Court, the federal 9th Circuit Court decision in Thompson v Hebdon (Nov 2018) gutted Alaska's campaign finance law, declaring that our voter approved limits were unconstitutionally low. The Dunleavy administration failed to appeal the decision. The Alaska legislature and the Alaska Public Offices Commission both failed to act to correct the problems in the law. Consequently, in 2022 and 2024 there were no limits on contributions to candidates. The results of unlimited contributions are stark.

For purposes of this analysis, Big Money is defined as anything that exceeds the proposed limits in HB16: \$2,000 to a candidate for House or Senate, \$4,000 to candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, and \$5,000 to a party or group.

Between 2020 and 2022 (post *Thompson v Hebdon*), there was very little difference in total contributions directly to candidates, but the mix was different. Big Money was 12% of the direct contributions in 2020, and 99% of this was from the candidates themselves or their party, which is effectively unlimited under law. By contrast, in 2022 Big Money was 37% of the direct contributions; 71% of it was in the Governor's race; and 53% of the Big Money was from Outside.

The news media reported that, as of August 15, 2022, incumbent Mike Dunleavy had raised \$2 million from 3,885 donors for his campaign for Governor. More than one hundred of these were in amounts in excess of \$2,500, comprising more than 43% of the total. Five mega-donors contributed more than \$50,000 each. Nearly 30% of the \$2 million was from out of state. Bill Walker raised nearly \$1 million, from 5,343 donors, with ten at \$2,500 or above, and 5% from out of state. Les Gara raised less than \$38,000, from 221 donors, with none more than \$2,000, and only 1% from out of state. (Data compiled by [FollowTheMoney.org](https://www.followthemoney.org)).

Without campaign finance limits, Big Money dominates and leaves the vast majority of constituents without equal representation.

What next?

Now again, citizens are stepping up to fix the problem. We collected signatures for a citizen's initiative to update the law, which will appear on the 2026 ballot. But we hope that you, the legislature will, as you did thirty years ago, step up and pass the new law this session. HB16 has the same language as the citizen's initiative. Your constituents call on you to act.

Stuart Relay

From: Thomas Baring [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 8:26 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support HB 16, create/enforce campaign donation limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear State Affairs Committee:

I encourage you to pass without amendments, HB 16. I agree strongly with this assertion in the bill:

"... the people of the state believe that political power and influence with public officials should not be allocated solely based on wealth. Instead, reasonable limits on the amount of campaign contributions are necessary to secure equal rights for Alaskans and to preserve the integrity of our elections."

A referendum limiting campaign contributions received enough signatures last summer (the CAMP initiative) to put this issue to the public on the ballot in 2026.

I encourage you to pass HB 16 right now, **legislatively**, as a responsible and popular action to help ensure that the 2026 election itself (and future elections) will better honor the will of the people and not that of various mega-donors.

Thank you,
Thomas Baring
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK, 99708

Stuart Relay

From: Shawn Jezerinac [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 6:11 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Finance limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Support HB 16 is currently being considered by the House State Affairs Committee. Rich Alaskans shouldn't run Alaska.

Thank you,
Shawn Jezerinac

Stuart Relay

From: Francis Mauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 7:56 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of House State Affairs Committee,

Limits on campaign financing in Alaska are essential for maintaining democracy in our State. Please pass HB 16 and protect the voices of all Alaskans, not just those of wealth, and power.

Thank you,

Fran Mauer

791 Redpoll Ln

Fairbanks, AK 99712

Stuart Relay

From: Kevin Morford [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 1, 2025 3:38 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please Support HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of passage of House Bill 16, without amendment in your committee. My name is Kevin Morford, and I am the president of Alaska Move to Amend, which is a non-profit grass roots NGO which advocates for improvements in public policy and election law. Our organization does not have any paid staffers, and relies entirely upon concerned Alaskans like myself to carry out its work.

As you may already be aware, Alaska had strong campaign finance limits in place for most of its existence as a State. The people of Alaska directly enacted those limits on a couple of occasions through the initiative process. A few years ago, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down those limits in the court case of *Thompson v. Hebdon*. Since then, Alaska has not had ANY campaign finance limits in place.

After two years of inaction on this issue by the Alaska Legislature, the people of Alaska have once again stepped in to place a new initiative proposition on the ballot to reinstate reasonable and constitutional campaign finance limits on the ballot. That initiative will be voted on by the people in the state wide primary election in August of 2026. But the Legislature has the opportunity to enact this proposition into law in the current legislative session, through the passage of HB 16, which is substantively the same as the initiative language. I and my organization strongly urge the Legislature to do this.

If the Legislature passes HB 16 this session, then campaign finance limits will be in place during the 2026 election. If it does not act then there will be no campaign finance limits in place for that election. HB 16 is carefully crafted to survive constitutional challenge, and to be a fair and even handed limit on campaign expenditures. Please take up this important bill at your earliest opportunity, and pass it out of committee without amendment, so that it can be voted on by the entire House. Thank you.

Kevin Morford
President, Alaska Move to Amend
(907) 688-5888 (home landline, do not text)

Stuart Relay

From: Karl Monetti [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 1, 2025 1:14 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Legislators

I am writing to ask you to support HB 16, an act to limit campaign contributions. A simple example of why this is necessary is the present situation of our national government, where a billionaire has bought his way into the Oval Office for \$290,000,000, and is now in the process of destroying our democracy.

Granted, this is an extreme example, but it clearly demonstrates the adverse effects that unrestrained campaign contributions can have on all levels of government, from local to state and federal government.

Unrestricted campaign donations give outsized influence to those with the financial resources, and diminishes the influence of the rest of us.

Thanks for your consideration.

Karl Monetti

North Pole
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Dave Nebert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 1, 2025 9:56 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Campaign limits are needed

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

House Representatives,

Outside interests continue to influence political campaigns here in Alaska by using large amounts of money to push "their interests". Please work hard to limit campaign contributions so us lowly Alaskans can have a reasonable chance in influencing our own elections.

Thanks, Dave Nebert, an independent voter in Fairbanks.

Stuart Relay

From: Joyanne Bloom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 3:49 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Campaign Donation Limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Representatives,

As elected officials, you know that huge donations to a campaign tips the scale big time in selecting candidates. This shouldn't be the way campaigns are won or lost. So many of the big donations come from outside Alaska as did with Governor Dunleavy's rich Texas brother. Now is your chance to change that by forwarding HB16 as written to the House floor.

Thanks for representing me and all the thousands of other Alaskans who signed the Campaign Limits Petition.

Thank you for your service,
Joyanne Bloom

--

Joyanne Bloom
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Daniel Billman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 10:19 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16 Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support HB 16 and urge you to support it through the legislative process and into law. Limiting campaign contributions to reasonable amounts will help move our political culture from a war of money to a discussion of issues and solutions. Coupled with open primaries and instant runoff, this bill will help bring elections back to ordinary Alaskans. Thank you for supporting it.

Daniel Billman
[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK

Stuart Relay

From: Dave Musgrave <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:15 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please move HB16 forward

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representatives,
I helped collect signatures for the ballot initiative, which will be on the ballot in 2026.

When I was on the streets collecting signatures, I was impressed by the people on all sides of the political spectrum who supported that initiative.

I urge you to more this bill forward.

Dave Musgrave
[REDACTED] Palmer, AK 99645
HD 29

Stuart Relay

From: Lou Theiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 9:23 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Members,

As a civically engaged retiree who devotes a lot of time advocating for improving policy for education, healthcare and a robust democratic process, I would be disappointed to see special interests with money slow down the positive progress being made for improving life of everyday Alaskans.

Successes that have improved the delivery of education through school bonds; have expanded medical facilities and access to healthcare for all regardless of ability to pay; the legal necessity of partisan free statewide Redistricting every 10 yrs; and an RCV process that puts 40% of undeclared voters on equal footing with Democrats and Republicans; all examples of efforts that I have participated in, in a small way, that would be at risk by more years of unlimited money drowning out the voice of everyday folks that support independent choice, beneficial to citizens and an equal voice in government.

Please consider examining and passing HB 16 through your committee.

My involvement in the listed projects above mean a lot personally and their diminishment would have a cost to many in the future

Let's get obscene money out of politics and set a reasonable policy.

Thank you

Lou Theiss District 9E

Stuart Relay

From: Dave Gardner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 6:41 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 16 Campaign Finance Limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support efforts to reinstate Campaign finance limits in Alaska. Our Elected officials need to focus on issues that are important to ordinary Alaskans, not be swayed by the big money donations of special interests. Please get this Bill moving forward and approved.

David Gardner
[REDACTED]
Anchorage 99508

Stuart Relay

From: Michael Hostina [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 11:43 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16 - Campaign Finance Limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Honorable Members of House State Affairs:

Please pass HB 16 out of committee without amendment.

Along with many other Alaskans I helped gather signatures in a successful effort to place an initiative containing the same provisions as HB 16 on the 2026 ballot. Most Alaskans deplore the corrosive effects of unlimited campaign contributions on Alaskan politics.

The time is ripe for the Legislature to replace the voter approved limitations struck down by federal courts as too stringent with the reasonable limits prescribed in the initiative and in HB 16.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Michael Hostina
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Fairbanks, AK 99708](#)

Stuart Relay

From: Doug Woodby [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:51 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16: support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 16 to limit campaign contributions. I think this will be a great step forward for the state and our democracy. Thank you.

Doug Woodby
Juneau

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:21 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Please Pass HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

A version of HB 16 regarding reinstating a limit on campaign financing for state elections almost passed two years ago but was held up in your committee. We know through recent polling that the vast majority of Alaskan voters support such efforts, and we are assured that this bill will meet the test of the courts at present. Therefore, I urge you to swiftly hold hearings and pass this bill out of committee soon. We cannot wait another year for rampant spending from all sides to try and influence our state elections.

I spent last year helping to collect signatures for a ballot measure that will place the wording of this bill before voters directly next year if you do not do your job. I want to report to you that as I went around the state talking to voters, by and large they confirmed that they do not like the limitless influence of money in our elections. We must stand firm to keep our rules in place as a state and fight for more measures at the national level.

Sincerely,

Beverly Churchill

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"Every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you" --- Walt Whitman

From: Martha Raynolds [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:35 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16 - Campaign Finance Reform

Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
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Dear House State Affairs Committee,

In Alaska we currently have NO election campaign spending limits. This is a serious problem. Please support HB 16 to limit campaign contributions.

There is wide support for this measure, and it will probably pass as a voter initiative in 2026. The sooner we get it in place, the more our elections will stay in our own hands.

Sincerely,

-- Martha Raynolds

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Martha Raynolds

11/11/2019

Stuart Relay

From: Lydia Lester [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:28 AM
To: House State Affairs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Support HB 16! It is what most Alaskans want. It is well vetted and reasonable. I am one of many Alaskans who want to put a cap on money in politics. I want HB 16 to pass, just like thousands of other unbiased Alaskans! I hope this email rings true as you make your consequential decisions.
Most sincerely, Lydia Lester

Stuart Relay

From: Lela Ryterski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 8:01 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please support HB 16. The corrupting power of money must be curtailed. A government that works for the people and not wealthy special interests would be a benefit to all, even the special interests, for they are also people who would benefit from clean air and water. Also, a middle class creates a safe environment.

Please pass this bill as is.

Sincerely,

Lilly Ryterski
Homer

Stuart Relay

From: Ingrid Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 7:42 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 16

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Alaska House State Affairs Committee,

This email is to urge you to bring House Bill 16 to the House floor for vote, without amendment.

It is essential to limit the role of excessive influence through money in politics (for many obvious reasons), and to have strict rules around the transparency of where money in politics comes from. Regardless of political party, this is something Alaskans widely agree on.

I support House Bill 16 and would love to see limitations in place before the 2026 election cycle.

Thank you for consideration,
Ingrid Johnson
Ester/Fairbanks, 99725

Stuart Relay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 5:53 PM
To: House State Affairs
Cc: Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Calvin Schrage
Subject: HB 16 to reinstate campaign finance limits in Alaska

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support this bill. Please bring it up for a vote on the floor of the House without amendment.

This is a simple, straightforward, non-partisan bill that sets intelligent campaign contribution limits that are indexed to inflation. It is long past time to enact it.

Bob Butera

Stuart Relay

From: Donna Goldsmith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 5:12 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 16 Campaign Finance Limitats

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support HB 16 and to bring it to the floor of the House as is, without amendment.

Campaign finance reform should be decided by Alaskans - polls consistently show that both Democratic and Republican voters favor being able to limit the role of big money in politics. This bill would encourage politicians to focus on issues that affect ordinary Alaskans, not just the interests of lobbyists and big donors.

Alaskans have consistently voted for strong campaign finance limits when given the chance - I urge you to vote accordingly on HB 16.

Sincerely,

Donna Goldsmith
South Anchorage 99515