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**VOTERS &
CANDIDATES
PAMPHLET**



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OLYMPIA, WASH

Published by the Office of the Secretary of State

**State General Election
NOVEMBER 4, 1986**

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VOTER PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Any person who wishes to participate in the election campaign process through financial contributions, volunteer work or other types of involvement may contact the candidate or party of his or her choice for more information. The addresses and telephone numbers of the major and minor political parties with candidates on the general election ballot are listed below.

Washington State Democratic Party
1701 Smith Tower
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 583-0664

Washington State Republican Party
Nine Bellevue Drive, #203
Bellevue, WA 98005
(206) 451-1984

Socialist Workers Party
5517 Rainier Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 723-5330

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Contributions to candidates and political committees: State law does not limit the amount a person may contribute to support or oppose a candidate, ballot measure campaign, political party or political committee. However, during the last 21 days before the general election, a person may contribute no more than \$50,000 to a candidate for statewide office or \$5,000 to any other candidate or political committee. Contributions from corporations, unions, businesses, associations and similar organizations are permitted.

Registration and reporting by candidates and political committees: Within two weeks after a person becomes a candidate or a political committee is organized, a campaign finance registration statement must be filed with the Public Disclosure Commission and the local county elections official. The candidate or committee treasurer is then required to report periodically the source and amount of campaign contributions and to list campaign expenditures.

These reports are open to the public. Copies are available at the Public Disclosure Commission in Olympia or at the county elections office in the county where the candidate lives. In addition, the campaign financial books and records of a candidate or committee are available for public inspection the last eight days (Monday through Friday) before each election. The campaign registration shows the times and place where the records may be inspected.

Independent campaign expenditures: Any person who makes an expenditure in support of or opposition to a state or local candidate or ballot proposition (not including contributions made to a candidate or political committee) must make a report to the Public Disclosure Commission within five days if the expenditure is \$100 or more. Reporting forms are available from the Commission or the county elections office. For additional information contact: Public Disclosure Commission, 403 Evergreen Plaza, FJ-42, Olympia, WA 98504-3342, (206) 753-1111

Federal campaigns: Contributions to U.S. Senate and House of Representative candidates are regulated by **federal** law. An individual may contribute a maximum of \$1,000 in the primary election and \$1,000 in the general election to each candidate for senator and representative. Corporations, businesses, unions and similar groups are generally prohibited from contributing to federal campaigns. Copies of federal campaign finance reports are available from the Public Disclosure Commission. For further information contact: Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9350

FEDERAL INCOME TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions or gifts made to political parties or candidates may not be deducted as business expenses. In addition, expenses paid or incurred to take part in any political campaign on behalf of a candidate for public office are not deductible business expenses. Also, indirect political contributions, such as advertising for a political party or admission to a program with proceeds going to a political party or candidate, are not deductible as business expenses.

Political Contributions Tax Credit: A person may take a tax credit of up to \$50 (\$100 on a joint return) for half the political contributions he or she makes during the year. Only individuals may claim this credit.

A political contribution that qualifies for the credit is a contribution of money during the year to a qualified candidate for nomination or election to any federal, state or local office who announces his or her candidacy before the end of the following calendar year and uses the money to further the candidacy; a campaign committee operated exclusively to further the election of one or more candidates to public office; a national, state or local committee of a national political party; or a newsletter fund established and maintained by a person who holds, has been elected to, or is a candidate for public office. A contribution to the newsletter fund must be used by that person in preparing and circulating the newsletter.

A written receipt is required to prove contributions. Cancelled checks will in most cases meet this requirement. If a book is bought from a committee of a national political party at a price greater than the fair market value of the book, the contribution that may qualify for the credit is the difference between the sales price and the fair market value of the book. The amount paid to a political candidate or campaign committee for a ticket for a raffle, lottery or similar drawing for valuable prizes does not qualify for the credit. Contributions for political activities not directly related to a nomination or election campaign does not qualify for credit. For additional information, contact the local office of the Internal Revenue Service.

INTRODUCTION TO THE 1986 VOTER'S PAMPHLET

Fellow Washingtonians:


For several years Washington has been a leader among states in providing access to voter registration and polling place locations for disabled and elderly citizens. We were the first state to produce a Braille voters pamphlet and have implemented several changes in laws to facilitate disabled citizen voter registration and polling place accessibility.

Now the entire country will be following Washington State's lead. A new federal and state law going into effect this year will ensure that disabled and elderly citizens across the nation will be better able to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Some Washington residents may be inconvenienced in this election because of a change in their polling place location. We regret such inconvenience, but feel the opportunity for **all** citizens to more freely participate in our democratic process is a very worthwhile effort.

We are proud that Washington State has been a leader in this cause and commend local election officials and the many community volunteers who have worked to ensure full accessibility. Our goal remains to provide 100% accessibility for all our state's citizens to the election process.




Ralph Munro
Secretary of State

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