STATE OF COLORADO Department of State

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A Democracy We Can Believe In: Increasing Campaign Finance Transparency & Accountability

Clean Campaign Act of 2019 (HR19-1318)

Campaign Finance Enforcement (SB19-232)

Coloradans deserve to know who is trying to influence our votes. We must reform money in politics to be able to detect and deter corruption, stop foreign financial influence, and increase transparency. These bills will help create a democracy that all Coloradans can believe in.

✓ **Banning Foreign Money in Colorado's Elections:** Curtails all foreign nationals, foreign corporations, and countries from spending money on any type of political communication, or contributing to, or controlling, any type of campaign finance committee.

✓ Stopping Dark Money:

- Shining Light on Secret Political Spending: Exposes hard to trace high-dollar donations to Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs), Colorado's version of SuperPACs, by requiring organizations that give dark money to disclose their funding sources. Special interests will no longer be able to hide their money by transferring it through various shell organizations.
- o Exposing Corporate Political Spending: Ensures that corporations that spend money in support of, or against, ballot initiatives disclose that they paid for the communication.
- Requiring "Paid for By" Disclaimers: Requires "Paid for By" disclaimers on communications to voters from any committee, including online communications.

✓ Limiting Coordination:

- Limiting Pre-Candidate Coordination: Stops politicians, in the six months prior to announcing their candidacy, from gaming the system by raising millions into an IEC that plans to support their future campaign.
- Prohibiting Organizations from Coordinating with Candidates on Communications: Expands coordination to include other types of communications that refer to, or benefit, a candidate. Previously organizations were only limited from coordinating with candidates on express advocacy.
- ✓ **Re-authorizing Small-Scale Issue Committees:** These are committees that have not expended or received more than \$5000 on ballot issue advocacy. They were created in statute with bipartisan support in 2016.
- ✓ Enforcing Campaign Finance Laws: Codifies existing rules put in place in 2018 in response to a Federal District Court ruling. It puts enforcement mechanisms into law that will help Colorado hold those that break campaign finance laws accountable, and modernizes Colorado's enforcement process to be more fair, speedy, and constitutional.