

Andrea Gyger

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Brian Schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:21 PM
To: Andrea Gyger
Subject: free speech vs. campaign finance rules

Categories: Rules

Dear Ms. Gyger,

Regarding proposed changes to the Secretary of State's "Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance" (8 CCR 1505-6):

These political controls regarding issue committees, ballot initiatives, or any elections, are forms of censorship. They violate the right of each Coloradan to express their political views and financially support for causes they approve of.

Each individual has the right to make anonymous donations to a cause, so long as the recipient agrees to such an arrangement. People have good reason to make anonymous donations, for example, if they fear the consequences of their boss or neighbors learning of it. Yet, if a cause does not reveal its large financial supporters, its opponents can exploit this by questioning the cause's credibility. So causes might have incentive to accept some non-anonymous donations. But leave this up to individual choice. Don't use threats of punishment.

If the state must forbid anonymous donations that exceed a certain amount, the published list should not include their home addresses or place of work

I agree with Institute for Justice Senior Attorney Steve Simpson on this issue: "It's not the government's job to protect us from ideas, even those backed by people and groups with great resources, good ideas or other tools of persuasion. People either agree with speech or they do not, but they are able to make up their own minds. The Court should open the floodgates to speech and let the people decide."

Brian T. Schwartz, Boulder