

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Seventy-fifth Session  
May 30, 2009**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Joyce Woodhouse at 8:03 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2009, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair  
Senator Bernice Mathews, Vice Chair  
Senator Valerie Wiener  
Senator John J. Lee  
Senator William J. Raggio  
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske  
Senator Warren B. Hardy II

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Assembly District No. 15  
Assemblyman Tick Segerblom, Assembly District No. 9

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Heidi Chlarson, Deputy Legislative Counsel  
Kevin Powers, Senate Legal Counsel and Bill Drafting Advisor  
Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst  
Paul Townsend, Legislative Auditor  
Karen Johansen, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada  
Matt Griffin, Deputy Secretary for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State  
Janine Hansen, Nevada Eagle Forum

within tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations because there is no definition to preclude that. The intent is to prevent certain entities from receiving the money as opposed to delineating specific entities available to receive the money. The donations Senator Wiener proposes would be permissible as the language is written.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Senator Lee, would you be willing to add Ms. Chlarson's suggestions for a further amendment?

SENATOR LEE:

Time is short. If it will not work now, I will work with her later. I know we can address this whether it is with this bill or next Session.

SENATOR WIENER:

I am fine with that because I will not be donating the money until I am gone. I can work with Senator Lee during the next Legislative Session.

MR. GRIFFIN:

I can assure the Committee that I will meet with Secretary of State Ross Miller and do our best to get an interpretation on this issue as soon as possible.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

I have some grave concerns. I was surprised and amazed to learn of the interpretation placed upon the language in statute. The clear intent was that anyone whose term ended—whether they were defeated at the polls, whether they collected money and did not run or whether they were term limited—was to distribute remaining contributions in accordance with these provisions. The interpretation indicated to me previously when we passed this statute is that if you receive another \$100, you are allowed to keep the money forever; this is clearly against legislative intent. When I found out people are retaining campaign contributions long after they leave office, whether they were defeated or did not run, astounded me. That was never the intent. This language is different, and the Assembly has rejected that "out of hand." It sounds to me as though people are intending to keep contributions long after it was intended they could do so. My problem is that this does not go far enough. It still allows them to keep the contributions for four years. I request we put the language back in that we added when we processed Senate Bill (S.B.) 210. Our constituents understood this is what we would do with funding—and that was within two and one-half

months after your term ended. I am still agitated by people who have misused their campaign contributions. I would not support this amendment unless we go back and adopt the amendment our Committee put in S.B. 210 requiring the money be distributed in this way and not retained for personal or campaign purposes. I will not support the bill unless that amendment is in here and the Assembly agrees with it.

**SENATE BILL 210 (1st Reprint)**: Makes various changes to the provisions governing the disposition and reporting of campaign contributions. (BDR 24-582)

SENATOR LEE:

I understand. We worked very hard on this. If I can get this amendment now, I have completed half of my goal. Senator Raggio, you and I will be back next Session and we can work together closely. I am willing to work again to accomplish that, but I would like to get this amendment passed now. I have no desire to make this amendment part of a process that will kill the Secretary of State's bill vote.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

I have some of the same concerns as Senator Raggio. Four years is too long for me to hold on to the money. The letters and checks I receive include requests to be notified where the money goes when I dispose of it. People were under the impression it would be disposed of within six months after I left office. Those checks come to help me with my campaign. The money was not intended to give to anyone in the State. A number of the checks came with those requests. I do not know what a reasonable amount of time is, but four years is too long to hold on to money intended for your reelection or use while you were in office. I will not support an amendment that allows for that length of time. I do not like things you have to come back and fix. We are here now. Fix it. This is not a fixable amendment.

SENATOR LEE:

If four years is an issue, that was between somebody terming out in one elected position and wanting to run for another position available in four years. I would pull out the four-year part of the amendment and keep the Distributive School Account Amendment.

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SENATOR HARDY:

I am sensitive to not killing the Secretary of State's bill. We can go to conference committee and explain why we feel so strongly and make adjustments if necessary. I tend to agree with Senator Mathews and Senator Raggio.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Senator Raggio, Senator Mathews and Senator Hardy are saying they would prefer the language in S.B. 210, then go to the Assembly and work with them.

SENATOR LEE:

I will defer to the Committee if that is their choice.

SENATOR LEE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
A.B. 82 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 5333, SUBSTITUTING  
LANGUAGE FROM S.B. 210.

SENATOR RAGGIO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ms. CHLARSON:

I want to clarify, the motion only relates to NRS 294A.160. The amendment in S.B. 210 had other sections of NRS.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR CEGAVSKE WAS ABSENT FOR  
THE VOTE).

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will move on to the fourth amendment. Mock-up proposed Amendment 5372 shifts local elections for all charter cities and all cities incorporated under general law to the statewide elections. It is on page 62 of your work session document, Exhibit C.

ASSEMBLYMAN TICK SEGERBLOM (Assembly District No. 9):

This amendment would require the remaining cities that have their municipal elections in the off years to switch to even years, such as Reno, Sparks and Carson City. The elections scheduled for 2011 would now be in 2012, and they