



MONEY IN POLITICS PROJECT

Summer 2017

Creating
★ A MORE PERFECT ★
Democracy



- ❑ Review the Money in Politics Project
- ❑ Give a Broad-Brush Picture of How State Law Works
- ❑ Give Advance Warning For Upcoming Legislation



The Start: Convention May 2017

23 Caucus Attendees

- ❑ Agreed: Money in Politics Creates Problems
- ❑ Looking for Ways to Act
- ❑ Needing Information

LWW[®] Money in Politics Project

□ 2 Goals

◆ Keep Money in Politics in the Public Eye

- Letter Writing
- Public Meetings
- eBlasts, 6-min YouTube Video
- Whatever Works

◆ Survey Current Campaign Finance Laws

- Home-Rule Municipalities
 - Have Option to Enact Laws
- State Regulations

Keeping MiP in the Public Eye

□ Community Conversations

- ◆ LWV Pikes Peak: MiP Series September 2017
- ◆ LWVBC: Lisa Graves, Dark Money 18 September 2017
- ◆ LWVBC: Denver Initiative, July 2017

□ Letter-Writing Campaign

- ◆ Jane Everham (Larimer), Shirley Jin (Boulder), Rionda Osman (Boulder)

□ LWVCO Making Democracy Work Conference



Survey: Home Rule Municipalities

61 Cities and 35 Towns

◆ Including

Broomfield County/ City

Denver County/ City

Can Adopt Rules and Regulations

Form of Government (Mayor/ Manager, etc.)

Operations, Taxes, and Elections



Campaign Finance Laws Survey

Contributions: Does this municipality limit contributions to candidates?

Spending Limits: Does this municipality have spending limits on candidates' campaigns?

Public Financing: Does this municipality have some form of public financing: matching funds, vouchers, etc.?

Independent Expenditures: In this municipality, are independent expenditures (money spent to advocate for or against a candidate that is NOT coordinated with a campaign) disclosed ?

Issue Campaigns: Does this municipality regulate contributions and/ or spending for issue campaigns?

"Dark Money" (money contributed by undisclosed donors): Has this municipality seen dark money in past elections? For which campaigns? Have you seen a result of that spending?

Enforcement: How does this municipality enforce its laws? Are there penalties? Do you have information about fines or other sanctions?

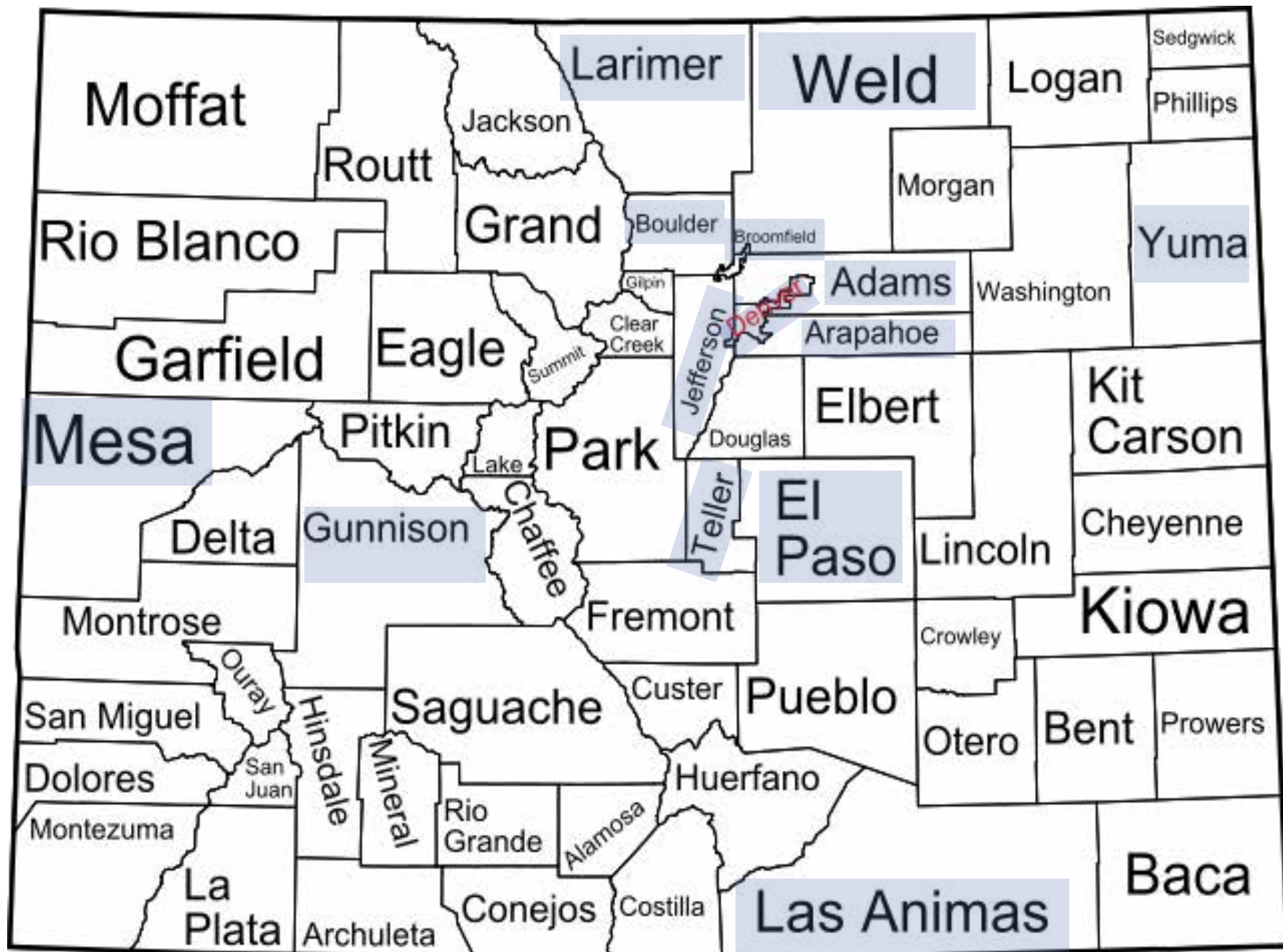
LWV[®] Responses

- 28 Home Rule Municipalities
- In 14 Counties

Report available at: www.lwvbc.org

Teams at Work

- > Campaign Finance Reform
 - > *MiP Survey Results 1Sep2017*





State Law from 50,000 Feet

- Candidates: Clearly Defined Regulations
 - ◆ Contributions, Spending, Reporting
- Contributions:
 - ◆ Who Cannot Give: Foreign Citizens, Corporations, Governments, etc.
 - ◆ Limits on Candidates, Parties, Political Committees, and Small-Donor Committees
 - ◆ No Limits on Issue Committees and Independent Expenditure Committees
- Reporting: Various Deadlines & Levels of Detail



State Law: Citizen Enforcement

- Private-Party or Third-Party Enforcement
 - ◆ Private Individual Files Complaint with SoS
 - ◆ SoS Refers Case to Office of Administrative Courts
 - ◆ Hearing Before An Administrative Law Judge
 - ◆ Civil Penalties
 - ◆ Expense Borne by Complainant
 - ◆ Scores Can Be Settled
 - ◆ System Is Currently Being Challenged in Court
- Failure to File Reports: \$50/day Fine

LWV® Variations from State Law

Contributions: Various Limits: \$100 >> \$5000

- ◆ **Boulder:** Public Financing
- ◆ **Broomfield:** No Caps on Candidates, Committees, or Donors
- ◆ **Colorado Springs:** No Limit; Corporations and Labor Unions May Donate
- ◆ **Greenwood Village:** Limits Cash Donations to \$100; Candidates Limited to \$2000
- ◆ **Jefferson County:** Unlimited Except DA (\$200)
- ◆ **Westminster:** Developers Contributing \$100+ Listed by City Clerk



Pillars of Campaign Finance Law

- ❑ Disclosure: Accurate, Timely, Complete Information
- ❑ Transparency: Accessible, Usable Information
- ❑ Enforcement: Measures to Ensure Compliance

LWV[®] What to Do?



LWW[®] Make Your Voice Heard

- ❑ **1155 Cure Campaign Finance Reporting Deficiencies:** Gives candidates or committees time to fix errors or omissions in a report **PASSED**
- ❑ **1259 Independent Expenditures Committees and Candidates:** Clarifies that an independent expenditure committee is subject to contribution limits and restrictions. **DEFEATED**
- ❑ **1260 Contribution Limits for County Offices:** Limits individual contributions to county candidates to \$2,500 per cycle with proportional limits for other donors. The bill maintains the prohibition on corporate contributions. **DEFEATED**
- ❑ **1261 Disclaimers Large Electioneering Communications:** Requires disclosure of the identity of persons spending \$1,000 or more on electioneering communications within a calendar year. **DEFEATED**
- ❑ **1262 Expand Disclose Electioneering Communications:** Closes the reporting gap between the end of the primary and the 60 days before an election. **DEFEATED**
- ❑ **1328 Require Candidates to Disclose Income Tax Returns:** Requires presidential and vice-presidential candidates to file with the Colorado Secretary of State a copy of their federal tax returns for the latest five years. **DEFEATED**

LWV[®] What to Do?

