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KENTUCKY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE RELEASES
COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE KENTUCKY'S ELECTION
FINANCE LAWS

The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance has released a report which reflects the most comprehensive and significant review of Kentucky's election finance laws in over a decade.

The report offers 88 specific recommendations to improve Kentucky's election finance system, including the filing of additional reports by candidates; requiring electronic filing of reports by candidates raising more than \$25,000; establishing a time frame post-election within which candidate loans must be repaid; permitting contributions via electronic means; requiring that contributions be deposited within 10 days of receipt; and suggesting that candidates for governor name their running mate for lieutenant governor after the primary.

Kentucky's existing election finance laws have been challenged by observers and participants in the system as confusing, lengthy, and punitive and – in some respects – legally problematic. The **Final Report of the Advisory Task Force for Development of the Registry's Legislative Package** offers lawmakers, policymakers and opinion leaders an informed and reasonable place from which to continue the effort to make Kentucky's election finance system a model for other jurisdictions and a source of confidence for the people of Kentucky and the integrity of their electoral system.

“The registry entrusted the study and review of current election finance statutes to a group whose interest and direct experience or participation in the electoral process provided a backdrop to propose meaningful, positive changes to the way campaigns are financed in the Commonwealth,” said registry chair and advisory task force co-chair John Rogers, a Glasgow attorney. “The final report is the product of much hard work and meaningful debate.”

David S. Samford, who served as advisory task force co-chair, heralded the final report as fulfilling the advisory task force's decided objectives for election finance laws, those being "preserving the constitutionally-guaranteed right of participation in the electoral process, providing transparency to the financing of elections, creating an equal playing field for all participants in the electoral process, and providing public confidence in the integrity of the electoral system."

The advisory task force was established by the registry to identify issues associated with the current election finance framework and to make recommendations on how the system could be simplified and improved.

After over twenty (20) hours of public debate and countless hours of individual research and consideration occurring over a period of eight (8) months, the advisory task force offered its final report to the registry in September. Individual advisory task force participants were provided the opportunity to submit dissenting opinions and to present any dissenting opinions before the registry. Some of the changes proposed to the final report were unanimously adopted by the registry and its final report reflects those amendments.

The Final Report of the Advisory Task Force for Development of the Registry's Legislative Package (as amended by the registry on September 19, 2005) has been printed and bound in three (3) volumes and is now available to the public. Volume I consists of the Final Report, Volume II contains the Final Report Appendices, and Volume III presents the Dissenting Opinions to the Final Report.

Volume I, which contains the text of the final report and actual recommendations, is available on the registry's web site at www.kref.ky.gov, while Volumes II and III are available by contacting the Public Records Office of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance at (502) 573-2226. Paper copies of all volumes are also available by contacting the registry's Public Records Office.

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