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Office of the Governor

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 79 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 79 ("AB 79"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to governmental administration; establishing a limit on contributions to the campaign of a candidate in certain special elections; requiring, with certain exceptions, a candidate to file a notice of intent to file for candidacy with the Secretary of State; revising provisions relating to the personal use of contributions or unspent contributions; revising provisions relating to the investigation and enforcement of provisions of law relating to campaign finance and financial disclosure statements; providing that a labor union and certain corporations and business organizations are not a committee for political action for purposes of campaign finance requirements; requiring such entities to report certain expenditures; making various other changes relating to campaign finance; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Though ensuring transparency in elections is an important goal, AB 79 contains provisions, some vague, that would make political involvement less feasible for many and lack sufficient judicial oversight.

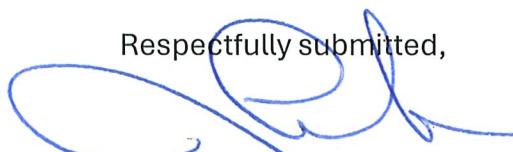
We should encourage broader participation in public service by making it accessible to people from all walks of life. However, AB 79 introduces complex reporting requirements and compliance obligations that may disproportionately burden smaller campaigns without professional staff or legal counsel. Furthermore, the bill imposes an added procedural step—requiring nonincumbents to file a notice of intent to run—while exempting incumbents from the same requirement, creating a meaningful imbalance in how candidates are treated. Even if this step appears minimal, it adds to the cumulative administrative load faced by first-time candidates. Additionally, while the bill clarifies that unspent contributions may be used for ordinary campaign or office-related expenses, it fails to precisely define when a contribution is considered “spent”, potentially leaving room for inconsistent interpretation and enforcement.

The bill significantly expands the enforcement powers of the Secretary of State by allowing the office to conduct investigations and impose administrative fines without first initiating judicial proceedings. While this may streamline enforcement, it also raises due process concerns by reducing opportunities for neutral, detached review. By centralizing investigative, prosecutorial, and adjudicative functions in a single office, the bill increases the risk of unequal or arbitrary enforcement, particularly in cases where legal standards—such as what constitutes a 'spent' or 'unspent' contribution—remain ambiguous. With no clear avenue for independent review, individuals and campaigns may be left vulnerable to inconsistent or overly punitive interpretations of the law.

Because AB 79 imposes disproportionate burdens on under-resourced campaigns and removes access to meaningful judicial processes, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO

Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)

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Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)

Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)

Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)

Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)

