



The City of NORMAN

201 West Gray • P.O. Box 370
Norman, Oklahoma • 73070

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Phone: 405-366-5402
Fax: 405-366-5389

December 5, 2014

Senator Rob Standridge
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 417A
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 521-5653
standridge@oksenate.gov

Senator Anthony Sykes
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 426
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 521-5560
lewis@oksenate.gov

Senator John Sparks
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 521B
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 521-5617
sparks@oksenate.gov

Representative Scott Martin
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 432D
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 962-7809
scott.martin@okhouse.gov

Representative Josh Cockroft
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 329B
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 962-7620
josh.cockroft@okhouse.gov

Representative Emily Virgin
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 962-7614
emily.virgin@okhouse.gov

Representative Claudia Griffith
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 539
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Fax: (405) 962-7809
claudia.griffith@okhouse.gov

Re: Municipal Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I write at the request of my colleagues on the Norman City Council to communicate our concerns regarding the recently enacted Municipal Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act that was created as part of Senate Bill 1745. Municipalities, such as Norman, previously enacted Ordinances to govern their own elections and the filing of local campaign finance reports. Based on Norman's prior experience with its own Ordinance, the Norman City Council believes that the newly enacted state legislation may result in less transparency, not more, in the conduct of the City of Norman's local municipal elections. Accordingly, the Norman City Council respectfully requests that steps be considered to have this legislation amended this

legislative session to reinstate the ability of home rule cities to govern the conduct of their own local elections and the filing of local campaign finance reports. Local control is a virtue which I believe we all share.

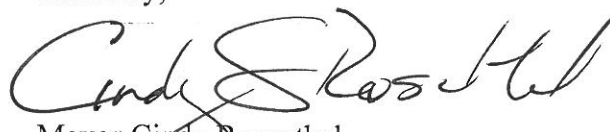
The City of Norman's Ordinance, Chapter 7.5 of the City's Code, establishes a local Norman Election Commission and requires local candidates for election to municipal office to file local campaign finance reports with the City Clerk in addition to the campaign finance reports required by the State of Oklahoma. This local ordinance also addressed other requirements, such as contribution limits and triggers for filing. The process works smoothly and historically has been well coordinated with requirements in state law.

The Municipal Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act now prohibits the City of Norman from requiring these additional local reports that supplemented information available to voters regarding candidate donors and campaign expenditures right up to the day before the election and, thus, these local reports increased the amount of transparency in City of Norman elections. At the November 25, 2014, Norman City Council meeting, several Councilmembers strongly expressed their beliefs that the conduct of local elections and the filing of campaign finance reports should be considered a matter of local concern or that a City, such as Norman, should, at a minimum, be able to supplement such matters with additional filing requirements for candidates that best serve the voters of the municipality. The City of Norman's Ordinance has effectively governed the conduct of municipal elections for over thirty (30) years, and the citizens of Norman have grown accustomed to this enhanced level of transparency and openness in local elections.

The Norman City Council will consider a Resolution at its December 9th meeting to formalize its concerns. Although formal City Council action is pending, Councilmembers have expressed these concerns during a public meeting, and I wanted to advise you before the 9th since the bill filing deadline is that same week. Because of the impending deadline for filing bills, I would urge the delegation to reserve a placeholder bill that helps to resolve this issue and reflects the priorities of our community.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
City of Norman, Oklahoma

Cc: Councilmember Greg Heiple, Ward 1
Councilmember Clint Williams, Ward 2
Councilmember Robert Castleberry, Ward 3
Councilmember Gregory J. Jungman, Ward 4
Councilmember Lynne Miller, Ward 5
Councilmember Jerry Lang, Ward 6
Councilmember Stephen Holman, Ward 7
Councilmember Dan Quinn, Ward 8
Steve Lewis, City Manager
Brenda Hall, City Clerk
Jeff Harley Bryant, City Attorney
Kristina L. Bell, Assistant City Attorney
Sue Ann Nicely, Associate General Counsel & Associate Chief Officer for Corporate
Affairs