



For Immediate Release

YES ON 10 ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE SURVEY ON OPEN AND CLEAN GOVERNMENT ACT

SIoux FALLS, SD -- YES ON 10, the ballot question committee organized to support the South Dakota Open and Clean Government Act, is sending a survey to current legislators and candidates. This simple survey seeks to gather their views on Initiated Measure 10 that will appear on this November's ballot.

"Quite often, legislators and candidates tell us they care about open and clean government," said Charles Droz, former legislator and chairman of **YES ON 10**. "We are asking them to take a public stand supporting Initiated Measure 10, the Open and Clean Government Act."

Initiated Measure 10 was placed on the ballot in April following certification by Secretary of State Chris Nelson of the more than 26,500 signatures collected in support of the measure. When the South Dakota Open and Clean Government Act is enacted by a vote of the people, the following changes will occur:

- Taxpayer funds cannot be used to lobby or campaign for partisan political agendas, including increased taxes.
- Holders of no-bid government contracts would contractually agree to refrain from making political contributions during the term of their contract and legislators and legislative staff would be unable to use their legislative positions to secure a "golden-parachute" job from state contractors after they leave the legislature.
- A simple, searchable website with information on all state contracts over \$500 (excluding employment contracts), would be launched so citizens can know how their money is being spent.

"Initiative 10 is a commonsense reform that will help to restore the public trust in our government," said Tonchi Weaver, board member from Rapid City. "People want to demystify the process of government so that they can be sure their hard-earned tax dollars are not being used inappropriately."

Jim Anderson, board member from Sioux Falls, said, "This is a sensible measure that makes our state government responsible, transparent, and accountable to the taxpayers." Anderson continued, "We have been told time and again that the people want open government and want to be able to trust that it is using our tax dollars responsibly and efficiently. Yet, nothing seems to get done in Pierre to make it happen."

"We want our legislators to take a stand on this issue because it's important. Elected officials have been hired by our votes to represent us. It's fundamentally wrong to allow lobbyists paid for with our tax money to do that job. This is government by proxy, and it does not serve us well," added Weaver.

The results of the survey will be made public throughout the campaign.

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