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**HOUSE BILL 2032**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      68th Legislature                      2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Cheney, Low, Ramos, and Graham

Prefiled 12/22/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1            AN ACT Relating to reducing the size of yard signs that are  
2 exempt from certain political advertising disclosure requirements;  
3 and amending RCW 42.17A.320.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17A.320 and 2019 c 261 s 3 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            (1) All written political advertising, whether relating to  
8 candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the sponsor's name  
9 and address. All radio and television political advertising, whether  
10 relating to candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the  
11 sponsor's name. The use of an assumed name for the sponsor of  
12 electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political  
13 advertising shall be unlawful. For partisan office, if a candidate  
14 has expressed a party or independent preference on the declaration of  
15 candidacy, that party or independent designation shall be clearly  
16 identified in electioneering communications, independent  
17 expenditures, or political advertising.

18            (2) In addition to the information required by subsection (1) of  
19 this section, except as specifically addressed in subsections (4) and  
20 (5) of this section, all political advertising undertaken as an  
21 independent expenditure or an electioneering communication by a

1 person or entity other than a bona fide political party must include  
2 as part of the communication:

3 (a) The statement: "No candidate authorized this ad. It is paid  
4 for by (name, address, city, state)";

5 (b) If the sponsor is a political committee, the statement: "Top  
6 Five Contributors," followed by a listing of the names of the five  
7 persons making the largest contributions as determined by RCW  
8 42.17A.350(1); and if necessary, the statement "Top Three Donors to  
9 PAC Contributors," followed by a listing of the names of the three  
10 individuals or entities, other than political committees, making the  
11 largest aggregated contributions as determined by RCW 42.17A.350(2);  
12 and

13 (c) If the sponsor is a political committee established,  
14 maintained, or controlled directly, or indirectly through the  
15 formation of one or more political committees, by an individual,  
16 corporation, union, association, or other entity, the full name of  
17 that individual or entity.

18 (3) The information required by subsections (1) and (2) of this  
19 section shall:

20 (a) Appear on the first page or fold of the written advertisement  
21 or communication in at least ten-point type, or in type at least ten  
22 percent of the largest size type used in a written advertisement or  
23 communication directed at more than one voter, such as a billboard or  
24 poster, whichever is larger;

25 (b) Not be subject to the half-tone or screening process; and

26 (c) Be set apart from any other printed matter. No text may be  
27 before, after, or immediately adjacent to the information required by  
28 subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

29 (4) In an independent expenditure or electioneering communication  
30 transmitted via television or other medium that includes a visual  
31 image, the following statement must either be clearly spoken, or  
32 appear in print and be visible for at least four seconds, appear in  
33 letters greater than four percent of the visual screen height on a  
34 solid black background on the entire bottom one-third of the  
35 television or visual display screen, or bottom one-fourth of the  
36 screen if the sponsor does not have or is otherwise not required to  
37 list its top five contributors, and have a reasonable color contrast  
38 with the background: "No candidate authorized this ad. Paid for by  
39 (name, city, state)." If the advertisement or communication is  
40 undertaken by a nonindividual other than a party organization, then

1 the following notation must also be included: "Top Five Contributors"  
2 followed by a listing of the names of the five persons making the  
3 largest aggregate contributions as determined by RCW 42.17A.350(1);  
4 and if necessary, the statement "Top Three Donors to PAC  
5 Contributors," followed by a listing of the names of the three  
6 individuals or entities other than political committees making the  
7 largest aggregate contributions to political committees as determined  
8 by RCW 42.17A.350(2). Abbreviations may be used to describe  
9 contributing entities if the full name of the entity has been clearly  
10 spoken previously during the broadcast advertisement.

11 (5) The following statement shall be clearly spoken in an  
12 independent expenditure or electioneering communication transmitted  
13 by a method that does not include a visual image: "No candidate  
14 authorized this ad. Paid for by (name, city, state)." If the  
15 independent expenditure or electioneering communication is undertaken  
16 by a nonindividual other than a party organization, then the  
17 following statement must also be included: "Top Five Contributors"  
18 followed by a listing of the names of the five persons making the  
19 largest contributions as determined by RCW 42.17A.350(1); and if  
20 necessary, the statement "Top Three Donors to PAC Contributors,"  
21 followed by a listing of the names of the three individuals or  
22 entities, other than political committees, making the largest  
23 aggregate contributions to political committees as determined by RCW  
24 42.17A.350(2). Abbreviations may be used to describe contributing  
25 entities if the full name of the entity has been clearly spoken  
26 previously during the broadcast advertisement.

27 (6) Political advertising costing one thousand dollars or more  
28 supporting or opposing ballot measures sponsored by a political  
29 committee must include the information on the top five contributors  
30 and top three contributors, other than political committees, as  
31 required by RCW 42.17A.350. A series of political advertising  
32 sponsored by the same political committee, each of which is under one  
33 thousand dollars, must include the top five contributors and top  
34 three contributors, other than political committees, as required by  
35 RCW 42.17A.350 once their cumulative value reaches one thousand  
36 dollars or more.

37 (7) Political yard signs are exempt from the requirements of this  
38 section that (~~the sponsor's name and address, and~~) the top five  
39 contributors and top three PAC contributors as required by RCW  
40 42.17A.350(~~(7)~~) be listed on the advertising. In addition, the public

1 disclosure commission shall, by rule, exempt from the identification  
2 requirements of this section forms of political advertising such as  
3 campaign buttons, balloons, pens, pencils, sky-writing, inscriptions,  
4 and other forms of advertising where identification is impractical.

5 (8) For the purposes of this section, "yard sign" means any  
6 outdoor sign with dimensions no greater than eight feet by four feet.

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