

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2019

**SENATORS PETERSEN AND BOYSKO AND DELEGATES KORY AND HOPE TO
INTRODUCE LEGISLATION LIMITING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SUPER PACS**

Bicameral Legislation Would Limit Influence of Super PACS in Virginia Elections

On Friday, June 7, 2019, Senators J. Chapman Petersen (D-Fairfax), Jennifer B. Boysko (D-Loudoun) and Delegates Kaye Kory (D-Fairfax) and Patrick A. Hope (D-Arlington) announced their intention to introduce legislation in the 2020 General Assembly legislative session to limit excessive campaign contributions from influencing Virginia elections. Recent campaign financial filings show that the Justice and Public Safety PAC has spent nearly \$1 million to promote challengers in the Democratic primary races for prosecutor in Arlington and Fairfax counties.

The legislation will be modeled after SB 1146 (2019)

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1146>, prohibiting individuals and political action committees from making any single contribution, or any combination of contributions, that exceeds \$10,000 to any one candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, or

the General Assembly or other local office in any one election cycle, of which no more than \$5,000 may be contributed for the primary election or other nominating event for the office the candidate is seeking.

Senator Petersen said, "It is not healthy for democracy for one wealthy donor to underwrite a campaign, especially when that donor has no connection to the community."

Senator Boysko said, "Democracy has suffered since Citizens United, allowing the rich and the powerful to influence elections. We're experiencing this negativity first-hand in Virginia's local primaries where a single outside donor is using a loophole in the law to influence our elections. I shudder to think, 'What's next?'"

Delegate Kory said, "Money from a super PAC is casting a shadow over our Virginia Democratic primary elections. Campaigns in our Commonwealth should be funded honestly and transparently, not by streams of endless funding unrepresentative of the local community of voters."

Delegate Hope said, "Allowing the ultra, super-rich and wealthy to influence the outcome of an election and forever effect government decisions is anti-democratic. Super PACs corrupt our political system and threaten our democracy. The legislature must take action to limit the impact such excessive campaign contributions have on our system."

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