

Human Rights Open Government

HR-3

The Friends Committee on Legislation believes that government should be fair, responsive, and accountable. There should be full access to, and disclosure by our government, from the way representatives are elected to the way in which government officials conduct business.

Individual participation in governmental process is fundamental to assuring responsive government. We therefore support legislation to ensure the widest possible registration of potential voters, including persons who are homeless. Effective participation depends upon, among other things, readily available information on deliberations and decisions of governmental officials and bodies. Such information should be widely accessible to the public, and presented simply and objectively in language reflecting the diversity of the voter participation.

Legislative committee actions are particularly important because the fate of most bills is decided in committees and the committee vote is often more important than the floor vote. A legislator's actions and votes in committee deliberations are often the best insight into the legislator's position. We believe that all deliberations of legislative committees and subcommittees (except when they are considering personnel issues) should be conducted openly and that committee votes should be recorded.

Campaign contributions from individuals or organizations are an important factor in election to public office and the passage of propositions. We believe that information on campaign contributions should be completed, and full disclosure of them made to the public, prior to elections. We also believe that the total amount spent in election campaigns should be limited. We further believe campaigns should be financed from public funds.

Approved by Southern Regional Committee 09/16/99.

Approved by Northern Regional Committee 01/29/00.