



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### [S8445 \(Fahy\) / A10097 \(Solages\)](#)

*Requires disclosure of contributors in independent expenditure communications*

March 13, 2026

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the election law, in relation to requiring disclosure of major contributors on independent expenditure communications.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Reinvent Albany strongly supports this bill because it will lead to more transparency in independent expenditures (IEs), which undermine democracy by giving wealthy donors tremendous influence in elections.

The bill does what [many other states](#) and [New York City](#) already do: It requires IE committees to disclose their top donors when spending on communications. This will help the public see the forces that are trying to influence elections, and decide whether or not those individuals or entities are to be trusted.

The bill is especially important right now as independent expenditures continue to rise, with most of them funded by the ultra-wealthy. The Brennan Center reported that spending by outside groups in last year's 2025 NYC elections – \$65 million – [was nearly double the previous record](#). A recent New York Times analysis also shows that [19% of contributions in 2024's federal elections came from billionaires](#).

New York can do little to prevent independent expenditures because of rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court, but the state can still make sure the public knows who is paying. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 adds a new subdivision 9 to NYS Election Law §14-107 providing that when IE committees spend on communications, they must include a “paid for by” statement. If

the committee has received more than \$1,000 from any individual during the proceeding 12 months, the communication must list the committee's top three contributors. If the committee has a treasurer, the treasurer's name must also be included. The disclaimer must be in a type size and format that is readable and last for at least four seconds if it is in an audio or video communication. The law shall not apply to elections under the jurisdiction of the NYC Campaign Finance Board (because such a law is already in effect). The section also defines "covered communication."

Section 2 adds a new §14-107-c to Election Law providing that for the purposes of determining top donors, only contributions that are earmarked, solicited, or "reasonably expected" to support IEs shall be included. It also provides that the SBOE shall promulgate rules within 180 days of the bill's effective date.

Section 3 provides a severability clause.

Section 4 states that the bill will take effect on January 1st after being signed into law.