Rebuttal points for misconceptions about SB 33

Members of the Election Law Committee are undoubtedly sincere in their concerns about the language of SB 33. Their fears are unwarranted, however.

Example 1

Concern: SB 33 casts too wide a net, requiring, for example, the League of Women Voters to register and file spending reports in order to publish voter guides.

In reality: SB 33 only affects organizations making *"expenditures,"* which are defined in NH election law as funds used to support the success or defeat of a candidate. The League and similar groups would *not* be affected.

Proof: RSA 664:2 IX. " 'Expenditure' shall mean the disbursement of money or thing of value or the making of a legally binding commitment to make such a disbursement in the future or the transfer of funds by a political committee to another political committee or to a candidate for the purpose of promoting the success or defeat of a candidate or candidates or measure or measures..."

Example 2

Concern: SB 33 does not cover modern forms of political advertising such as internet ads.

In reality: The bill specifies *"communications,"* which are broadly defined in NH election law and include internet ads.

Proof: RSA 664:2 VII. " 'Communication' shall include, but not be limited to, publication in any newspaper or other periodical or on any Internet site, broadcasting on radio, television, or over any public address system, transmission by telephone or facsimile, placement on any billboards, outdoor facilities, window displays, posters, cards, pamphlets, leaflets, flyers, or other circulars, or in any direct mailing."

There are more examples like these. It is easy to poke holes in the language of SB 33 if the legal definitions of the terms used in the bill are not fully understood. The bill's language is, in fact, rock solid as is and requires no further study. SB 33 should be implemented right away so that we don't go through another election cycle without a full accounting of electioneering spending.