

Background

1999-2000 Disclosure Report Card: Which Ohio Candidates Properly Disclose Contributions?

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Analysis of employer identifications in
1999-2000 Campaign Finance Reports
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In 1995 the Ohio legislature passed campaign finance reform legislation limiting campaign contributions and requiring certain types of financial disclosure. One type of disclosure required was employer identification of certain contributors.

Statewide and Ohio General Assembly candidates are required to disclose the employer of contributors who gave more than \$100. Candidates are required to make a "Best Effort" to obtain this information. People making contributions are also required by law to provide this employer identification to the candidates. This study examines candidates' record of compliance with the employer identification requirement in the law.

Section 3517.10 (B)(4) of the Ohio Revised Codes requires that a statement of contributions received shall include -

"(ii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or candidate for the office of member of the general assembly receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds

one hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual is self-employed, his occupation;"

Section 3517.10(E)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code states the following:

"Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds one hundred dollars to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or candidate for the office of member of the general assembly shall provide the name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's occupation to the recipient of the contribution at the time the contribution is made."

The law requires that the name of the employer be provided and disclosed if the person is employed by another. If self-employed, the occupation of the individual may be disclosed.

Ohio law established the listing of "Best Efforts" if a candidate could not provide the employer of a contributor. The Ohio Secretary of State developed standards in rules to define "Best Efforts." As a result candidates who use "Best Efforts" must include notices requesting employer identifications in campaign solicitation materials and make one follow-up attempt to obtain the employer identification. In this report, candidates were given credit for employer identification where the employer was provided. Listing "Best Efforts" was not counted as providing the employer identification.

Approximately 30 candidates did not supply the employer for in-kind contributions from individuals who gave more than \$100. Employer identification has been legally required for in-kind contributions since 1995, however the Secretary of State's forms did not include a space for this information until April 1999. In April of 1999 the Ohio Secretary of State's updated forms were released and included a space for the employer. In November 1999 and January 2000 the Secretary of State inadvertently continued to distribute the old outdated forms and candidate training seminars. In-kind contributions reported on forms submitted throughout 1999-2000 should have contained the employer identification for in-kind contributions of more than \$100 from individuals.

A number of candidates use generic identification of employer/occupation that do not provide voters with the actual name of the business or employer. For instance generic listings included "Attorney" instead of the name of a law firm, "Developer" instead of the name of the company, and "Manager" instead of the company name. Candidates should provide the name of the employer whenever an individual contributor is not self-employed.

This study is based on the 1999-2000 candidate campaign finance reports computerized by the Ohio Secretary of State. It includes 1999-2000 reports and addenda for all statewide candidates and legislative candidates submitted to the Secretary of State before March 31, 2001.

As a courtesy to candidates, a copy of their individual analysis was sent to them in June 2001, so that they could verify its accuracy. Corrections were made in this final report based on appropriate feedback from candidates and their staffs.

**Ohio government leaders' compliance
with employer disclosure requirements in 1999-2000**

Government official	Position	Disclosure in 1999	Disclosure 1999-00	Grade 98
	Justice	Terrence O'Donnell		
Kenneth Blackwell	Secretary of State	A	A	
Joseph Deters	Justice	Tim Black	A	F
Richard Finan	Senate President			A B
Larry Householder	Speaker of the House	B	A	
Leigh Herington	Senate Min.Ldr	A	A	
Jack Ford	House Min. Ldr	B	A	
Betty Montgomery	Attorney General	A	A	
Jim Petro	Auditor	A	A	
Bob Taft	Governor	A	A	

Major Findings

In 1995 the Ohio legislature passed campaign finance reform legislation limiting campaign contributions and requiring certain types of financial disclosure. Key to the new public disclosure was a provision requiring that candidates report the employer identification for individual contributors who gave more than \$100. Public disclosure of the employer of a contributor enables the public to examine the economic interests supporting candidates. With this information voters have another tool to evaluate how candidates might be persuaded to vote on key issues.

1. Ohio candidates continue to improve in disclosure.

In 1999 and 2000, Ohio statewide and legislative candidates received approximately 38 million dollars in contributions, 13.3 million from individuals who gave more than \$100. Statewide and legislative candidates identified the employers of 12.3 million, 92 percent of the amount of individual contributions of more than \$100 (excluding in-kind contributions), down from 95 percent in 1998 and equal to 92 percent in 1997.

2. Most top government officials and candidates for statewide office disclosed 90 percent or more.

Top government officials and candidates running for statewide office set an excellent example of disclosure, most identifying 90 percent or more of the employers of their large contributors.

3. Statewide and legislative officeholders and candidates who ran in the 2000 general election who identified more than 90 percent.

Candidate name		Grade
AIKEN	NANCY	A
ARMBRUSTER	JEFFRY	A
ASLANIDES	JIM	A
AUSTRIA	STEVE	A
BARNES	JOHN	A
BARRETT	CATHERINE	A
BATES	MELANIE	A
BEATTY	JOYCE	A
BILLIS	JOHN	A
BLACK	TIM	A
BLACKWELL	J. KENNETH	A
BLASDEL	CHARLES	A
BLESSING	LOUIS	A
BOCCIERI	JOHN	A
BRADY	DAN	A
BRINKMAN	TOM	A
BUEHRER	STEPHEN	A
BURGER	CHARLES	A
CALLENDER	JAMIE	A
CALVERT	CHARLES	A
CAMPBELL	JACK	A
CARANO	KEN	A
CAREY	BRYAN	A
CAREY	JOHN	A
CARNES	JAMES	A
CHURCH	DICK	A
CIRELLI	MARY	A
CLANCY	PATRICIA	A
CLARKE	DEAN	A
COLLIER	THOMAS	A
CONDIA	TONY	A
CONWAY KILBANE	SALLY	A
COOK	DEBORAH	A
CORE	ANTHONY	A
COUGHLIN	KEVIN	A
CUPP	ROBERT	A
DAMSCHRODER	REX	A
DEPIERO	DEAN	A
DETERS	JOSEPH	A
DEWINE	KEVIN	A
DIDONATO	GREG	A
DISTEL	L. GEORGE	A

DRAKE	GRACE		A
DRIEHAUS	STEVE		A
ELIASON	LISA	A	
ESPY	BEN		A
EVAN	FRANK		A
EVANS	DAVID		A
EVANS	ROGER		A
FANGER	JEFFREY		A
FEDOR	TERESA		A
FINAN	RICHARD		A
FINGERHUT	ERIC	A	
FLANNERY	BRYAN		A
FLEURE	MARY		A
FLOWERS	LARRY		A
FURNEY	LINDA		A
GARCIA	JOHN		A
GARDNER	RANDALL		A
GARDNER	ROBERT		A
GILB	MIKE		A
GIOITTA	CAROLINE		A
GOODING	ROBERT		A
GRENDALL	TIM	A	
GUERRY	THEODORE		A
HACKER	BART		A
HAGAN	JOHN		A
HAGAN	ROBERT		A
HARPEL	GREGORY		A
HARRIS	BILL	A	
HARTMAN	JOHN		A
HARTMANN	RICHARD		A
HARTNETT	BILL	A	
HATCH	MARK		A
HERINGTON	LEIGH		A
HOLLISTER	NANCY		A
HOLTSBERRY	TIMOTHY		A
HOOD	RON		A
HOOPS	JAMES		A
HUGHES	JIM		A
HULL	NANCY		A
HUSTED	JON	A	
INSANA	KAREN		A
JACOBSON	JEFF		A
JOHNSON	BRUCE		A
JOHNSON	T.J.		A
JOLIVETTE	GREGORY		A

JONES	PETER	A
JONES	RONNIE	A
JORDAN	JIM	A
JOTTE	RANDY	A
KEARNS	MERLE	A
KRUPINSKI	EILEEN	A
LATELL	ANTHONY	A
LATTA	ROBERT	A
LISY	RONALD	A
LONG	CHRIS	A
LORMS	MARY	A
MAGEE	ARTHUR	A
MALESKI	MICHAEL	A
MALLORY	MARK	A
MANN	LES	A
MANNING	JEFF	A
MCKEEVER	CAROL	A
MCLIN	RHINE	A
MCNAMEE	DONNA	A
MEAD	PRISCILLA	A
METELSKY	GEORGE DAN	A
METTLER	JIM	A
METZGER	KERRY	A
MILLER	DALE	A
MONTGOMERY	BETTY	A
MOSHER	NATALIE	A
MUMPER	LARRY	A
NEIN	SCOTT	A
NIEHAUS	TOM	A
OAKAR	MARY	A
OELSLAGER	SCOTT	A
OGG	WILLIAM	A
OLMAN	LYNN	A
OTTERMAN	ROBERT	A
PATTON	SYLVESTER	A
PERRY	JEANINE	A
PETERSON	JON	A
PETRO	JIM	A
RAGA	TOM	A
RAPOPORT	ALAN	A
RAY	ROY	A
REDFERN	CHRIS	A
REIDELBACH	LINDA	A
REINHARD	STEPHEN	A
RESNICK	ALICE	A

ROMAN	TWYLA	A
ROTHGERY	CHRISTOPHER	A
SALERNO	AMY	A
SCHNEIDER	MICHELLE	A
SCHURING	KIRK	A
SCOTT	MARYLYN	A
SELL	BILL	A
SENTICH	FRANK	A
SETZER	ARLENE	A
SFERRA	DANIEL	A
SHIFFER	DAVID	A
SHOEMAKER	MICHAEL	A
SIEBENALER	JEAN	A
SMITH	GEOFFREY	A
SMITH	SHIRLEY	A
STAPLETON	DENNIS	A
STEPHENSON	WILLIAM	A
SULLIVAN	ERIN	A
SULZER	JOSEPH	A
TAFT	ROBERT	A
WALLACE	NORMA	A
WATERS	ANTHONY	A
WELLS	GARY	A
WERNZ	STAN	A
WHITAKER	BRIAN	A
WHITE	DOUG	A
WHITE	JOHN	A
WILSON	CHARLES	A
WOLPERT	LARRY	A
WOMER BENJAMIN	ANN	A
WOODS	JOSEPH	A
YODER	WAYNE	A
YOUNG	RON	A
ZAWACKI	DANIEL	A

4. Legislators who need to improve.

The following legislators fell below the statewide average for disclosure and failed to disclose 10 or more contributions from individuals who gave more than \$100.

Legislators who need to improve*					
<u>Legislators</u>	<u>Amount to Identify</u>	<u>Amount Identified</u>	<u>Grade 1999-2000</u>	<u>Grade 1998</u>	<u># Not Identified</u>
Ron Amstutz	\$111,390	\$ 98,735	B	A	23
Jack Ford	\$ 26,165	\$ 22,670	B	A	10
David Goodman	\$ 65,855	\$ 57,175	B	A	21
Larry Householder	\$639,755	\$560,955	B	A	148
Tim Ryan	\$ 36,531	\$ 29,475	B	-	17
Bill Seitz	\$ 60,010	\$ 52,705	B	-	23
Jim Trakas	\$144,835	\$120,860	B	D	47
Lynn Wachtmann	\$121,478	\$104,378	B	A	57
J. Tom Lendrum	\$ 27,676	\$ 21,925	C	-	19
Tim Schaffer	\$ 20,975	\$ 15,550	C	-	17
Gary Cates	\$ 58,135	\$ 39,425	D	A	28
Jay Hottinger	\$ 96,365	\$ 59,115	D	A	45
Claudette Woodard	\$ 7,025	\$ 4,500	D	-	11
Jim Carmichael	\$ 5,985	\$ 0	F	-	25
Robert Spada	\$ 20,290	\$ 765	F	-	29
Shawn Webster	\$ 42,110	\$ 1,950	F	-	96

- Did not run for office that year or received no contributions in this category.
* This chart includes legislators who failed to identify at least 90% of the amount of contributions from individuals who gave more than \$100. These candidates failed to identify 10 or more individual contributors.

5. Statewide and legislative officeholders and candidates who ran in the 2000 general election who identified less than 90 percent.

PLEASE NOTE: Some candidates had few contributions more than \$100. By failing to identify 1 or 2 contributors, some received an "F". Obviously it is more important to focus attention on candidates who failed to identify many contributors.

Candidate	\$ Amount to id	# of contrib to id	\$ amount id'd	# id'd over \$100	% of \$ Gr amt id'd
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Candidates who received a grade of "B"

AMSTUTZ	111390	183	98735	160	88.64
BRITTON	2325	8	2000	6	86.02
CAIN	3925	8	3425	7	87.26
DEBROSSE	900	3	750	2	83.33

DUNLEVY	2230	7	1830	5	82.06
FABER	31370	74	28050	69	89.42
FESSLER	15900	22	14200	19	89.31
FORD	26165	70	22670	60	86.64
GOODMAN	65855	146	57175	125	86.82
HOUSEHOLDER	639755	700	560955	552	87.68
JERSE	3450	21	2925	18	84.78
KELLEY	49476	125	41025	101	82.92
LACEY	7010.43	17	6185.43	13	88.23
LANDEFELD	3050	10	2650	8	86.89
MARCUS	14450	28	11800	26	81.66
MILLER	7520	34	6650	30	88.43
OLSON	3700	13	3300	11	89.19
PRENTISS	4405	19	3755	16	85.24
RHINE	3250	14	2650	11	81.54
RYAN	36531	89	29475	72	80.68
SCHMIDT	53093	136	46843	131	88.23
SEITZ	60010	231	52705	208	87.83
TRAKAS	144835	243	120860	196	83.45
WACHTMANN	121478	274	104378	217	85.92
WILLAMOWSKI	8365	35	6785	30	81.11
ZUK	7981.61	24	6681.61	21	83.71

Candidates who received a grade of "C"

ALLEN	2200	10	1700	9	77.27
LENDRUM	27676	67	21925	48	79.22
ODONNELL	621795	1237	475595	962	76.49
SCHAFFER	20975	52	15550	35	74.14
SHAFFER	8125	23	6475	17	79.69
STEVENS	8570	29	6070	27	70.83

Candidates who received a grade of "D"

CATES	58135	90	39425	62	67.82
GRIMM	5050	10	3350	7	66.34
HOTTINGER	95865	124	59115	79	61.66
LAW	6100	15	3850	6	63.11
WILLIAMS	9200	18	6250	13	67.93
WOODARD	7025	14	4500	3	64.06

Candidates who received a grade of "F"

BLAKELY	400	2	0	0	0
BONAR	500	1	0	0	0

BOYLE	10850	14	4600	10	42.40
BROWN	1650	4	0	0	0
BUSCH	1210	4	160	1	13.22
CALDWELL	1050	3	500	1	47.62
CARMICHAEL	5985	25	0	0	0
COATES	4400	7	1500	4	34.09
CORNER	150	1	0	0	0
DRABICK	500	1	0	0	0
ENGEL	450	2	0	0	0
FAGIN	1070	1	0	0	0
FEDERICO	18300	53	0	0	0
HARRISON	1650	5	850	3	51.52
HUNTER	850	2	0	0	0
KEITH	7405	36	3730	16	50.37
KELLER	10425	20	0	0	0
KEMMERER	4950	15	0	0	0
KEY	1500	3	500	1	33.33
LUDWIG	400	2	0	0	0
LUPHER	251	2	0	0	0
MITCHELL	1035	5	0	0	0
OBRIEN	5375	18	300	1	5.58
RAUSSEN	67790	144	8565	38	27.39
SCHAFRATH	9950	16	4850	7	48.74
SEAVER	1150	2	150	1	13.04
SECREST	400	2	0	0	0
SPADA	20290	33	765	4	3.77
STRAHORN	2600	11	1500	7	57.69
SWEENEY	400	2	0	0	0
SYKES	1850	8	0	0	0
TACKETT	15900	18	6950	10	43.71
WARGO	1600	8	200	1	12.50
WEBSTER	42110	102	1950	6	4.63
WILSON	970	4	0	0	0
WORHATCH	4725	16	0	0	0
BLAKE	0	0	0	0	0
CALLAHAN	0	0	0	0	0
DOWNING	0	0	0	0	0
EKSTRUM	0	0	0	0	0
INSKEEP	0	0	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	0	0
JONES	0	0	0	0	0
KAFFENBERGER	0	0	0	0	0
KAMMERER	0	0	0	0	0

Examples of unidentified contributors

Contributor	Amount	Employer	Unidentified in filings by	Identified in candidate filing of
John W Berry	\$2,000	Berry Investments	Terrence O'Donnell	J. Deters L. Household
Michael Boich	\$2,500 \$2,500	Boich Companies	John Carey Robert Spada	Randall Garcia P. Mead
David Brennan	\$1,500 \$2,500	Brennan Industries	Bryan Williams Jay Hottinger	B. Taft J. Petro
Clay Mathile	\$2,500 \$2,500	Iams/ CYMI	Jay Hottinger Jean Schmidt	L. Wachtmar J. Jacobson

MANN	0	0	0	0	0
MARTINEZ	0	0	0	0	0
MCNEIL	0	0	0	0	0
MORITZ	0	0	0	0	0
MOYER	0	0	0	0	0
MOYER	0	0	0	0	0
MUELLER	0	0	0	0	0
NAZZARINE	0	0	0	0	0
PFEIFER	0	0	0	0	0
SMITH	0	0	0	0	0
SMITH	0	0	0	0	0
SWEENEY	0	0	0	0	0
TAYLOR	0	0	0	0	0
TIBBITTS	0	0	0	0	0
WAGNER	0	0	0	0	0
WHITE	0	0	0	0	0
WILLIAMS	0	0	0	0	0
WILSON	0	0	0	0	0

NA - Candidate

6. Unknown contributors are known to other candidates.

Some candidates failed to identify well-known contributors. An analysis of several large contributions found that some candidates appear to overlook employer identifications other candidates were able to find. Candidates need to make employer identification a priority for staff handling these reports.

7. Campaign finance data entry and reporting problems

Data entry problems reduced the completeness and accuracy of the Ohio Secretary of State's campaign contribution database:

- The data entry firm used by the Ohio Secretary of State -
- Failed to data enter employer names provided by candidates in the reports from Ken Blackwell, Richard Finan, Larry Householder, Doug White and others.*
- Made duplicate data entries for identical contributions in the reports from Richard Finan, Alice Resnick, Ed Boyle.
- Entered incorrect amounts in the reports from Jim Trakas, Nancy Hollister, Tim Ryan, Keith Faber.
- Did not enter names of political action committees in the report from Jim Trakas.
 - A candidate that filed electronically did not follow all of the field descriptions, inappropriately listing company names in the individual last name field (Jim Petro).
 - The Ohio Secretary of State's office distributed outdated in-kind contribution forms at candidate campaign finance seminars in November 1999 and January 2000. These outdated forms used by many candidates did not include a space for the employer for in-kind contributions.

* These problems arose from data entry by the state's contractor. The errors were not in the paper reports made by candidates' campaigns.

Ohio Secretary of State Blackwell and his staff worked this year to replace Ohio's campaign finance system and begin accepting electronic filings. Enhanced auditing procedures and higher data entry standards could alleviate problems. In addition as more candidates file electronically many data entry problems could be eliminated.

When the Center first calculated candidate compliance with disclosure requirements, these data entry errors created the appearance that many candidates, including the Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, did a poor or failing job following disclosure laws (In the chart below see original grade) than the candidates actually did (See grade after corrections made by Citizens Policy Center).

The Ohio Secretary of State's office (SOS) is to be commended for steps taken in the last year to upgrade their data entry process. However, as this evidence shows, more improvements are needed.

**Problems identified in the Ohio Secretary of State
1999-2000 candidate campaign finance database**

Candidate	Data entry error	Original grade based on SOS database	Grade after corrections made by Citizens Policy Cent
Ken Blackwell	Failed to data enter names of employers provided on forms.	F	A
Richard Finan	Failed to data enter names of employers, entered duplicates of same contributions.	F	A
Larry Householder	Failed to data enter names of employers, entered duplicates of same contributions.	F	B
Rhine McClin	Failed to data enter names of employers provided in addenda.	D	A
Jeffry Armbruster	Failed to data enter names of employers provided on forms.	F	A
James Trakas	Failed to data enter names of employers, entered incorrect amounts for contributions, failed to data enter PAC names provided in company field.	F	B

8. Candidates who failed to provide employer identification of in-kind contributors

The 1995 campaign finance reform law required that candidates provide the employer of individuals who contribute more than \$100, including those who make in-kind contributions. Updated forms requesting legally required information for in-kind contributions were printed and released in April 1999. However old forms (not requesting the employer identification) were distributed in November of 1999 and January 2000 at Ohio Secretary of State candidate campaign seminars.

Approximately 30 candidates used outdated in-kind contribution forms, including Governor Bob Taft, Chief Justice Thomas Moyer, and Representatives David Goodman, Larry Householder, Jim Trakas and Chris Verich. Therefore, we have adjusted the grade for candidates who failed to provide the employer for in-kind contributions, giving them credit as if they had properly

disclosed the employer. This is the second report that required an adjustment for in-kind contribution grades, due to outdated forms provided to candidates. We will not adjust grades on this basis in the future. Candidates must realize that the employer identification requirements cover all types of contributions from individuals.

The following candidates grades were originally low because of their failure to provide employer identifications for in-kind contributors. Their adjusted grades are listed after the Center exempted in-kind contributions from the analysis.

Candidates who failed to provide employer identification of in-kind contributors

Candidate	Error	Original grade based on SOS database and Ohio law	Grade after credit adjustment made by Citizens Policy Center
Chief Justice Thomas Moyer	Candidate used outdated in-kind contribution forms	F	NA*
State Rep. Ron Rhine	Candidate used outdated in-kind contribution forms	C	B
State Rep. Tim Ryan	Candidate used outdated in-kind contribution forms	C	B
State Rep. John Barnes	Candidate used outdated in-kind contribution forms	B	A
State Rep. Kevin DeWine	Candidate used outdated in-kind contribution forms	B	A

* NA indicates the candidate had no individual contributions of more than \$100 that were not in-kind contributions.

9. Generic employer information

Generic data entries refer to identification of employer/occupation that do not provide voters with the actual name of the business or employer. For instance generic listings included "Professor" in the employer field instead of the name of the university, "Attorney" instead of the name of a law firm, "Developer" instead of the name of the company, and "Manager" instead of the company name.

10. Responses from candidates

The following are examples of a variety of concerns and questions raised by candidates.

Responses from candidates concerning 1999-2000 Disclosure Grades

Response from candidates	Response from the Citizens Policy
The Secretary of State in-kind forms didn't request employer identification. There was no space to provide the information on the outdated forms.	That is correct. Because outdated forms were distributed in November 1999 and January 2000, we removed in-kind contributions from this study.
Why are we getting a letter from a citizens group and not from the Secretary of State?	The Ohio Secretary of State auditor local Boards of Election should be requesting missing employer identifications.
As a new candidate I didn't know this information was required. Couldn't you call or send candidates a letter informing them this information is needed?	In the future the Center will consider sending new legislators a letter describing the upcoming Disclosure study and the need to provide employer information. The Ohio Secretary of State should consider additional training for new legislators.
A low grade seems so unfair, given the hard work the candidate has given to his/her constituents.	This grade only looks at one aspect of a legislator's life and should not be considered a grade evaluating the total work of legislators.
We have satisfied the legal requirements of the Ohio Secretary of State. It is unfair for a citizens group to set up their own higher standards.	This study examines whether candidates complied with Ohio law. A citizens group representing the public has a right to demand a high level of disclosure and to provide information to the public.
Candidates should be given credit for "BEST EFFORTS."	This study examines whether or not candidates provided the employer and individual contributors. Listing "BEST EFFORTS" provides no information to voters and is not counted in this study.
This type of study will demoralize volunteer treasurers.	Candidates who expect to serve the public should meet high standards of disclosure. We encourage candidates and treasurers to carefully read the Ohio Campaign Finance Reporting Handbook.
This grade should be assigned to the treasurer, not the candidate. It is unfair to blame the candidate for the treasurer's mistakes.	Candidates are seeking an office when they will make Ohio law. They are ultimately responsible for the reports submitted. They should demonstrate that they can fulfill the requirements of the law.
Candidates should be given a chance to correct their mistakes and change their grades.	This study examines the 1999-2000 campaign finance reports and addenda filed from January 1, 1999 through January 31, 2001. To receive an excellent grade, candidates needed to provide the required information in that time period.

Several candidates have chosen to provide addenda. This option allows any candidate to complete 100 percent of filings with the Secretary of State.

**Responses from candidates concerning 1999-2000
Disclosure Grades (continued from the previous page)**

Response from candidates	Response from the Citizens Policy Cent
This grade should be assigned to the treasurer, not the candidate. It is unfair to blame the candidate for the treasurer's mistakes.	Candidates are seeking an office where will make or uphold Ohio law. They are ultimately responsible for the reports submitted and should demonstrate that t can fulfill the requirements of Ohio law
Candidates should be given a chance to correct their mistakes and change their grades.	This study examines the 1999-2000 campaign finance reports and addenda f from January 1, 1999 through March 31 2001. To receive an excellent grade, candidates needed to provide the legally required information in that time period Several candidates have chosen to subm addenda. This option allows any candic to complete 100 percent of their filings the Secretary of State.
The unidentified contributors were retired or self-employed. The candidate didn't know he/she should list information for these types of contributors.	Candidates need to list "Retired" for reti contributors in the EMPLOYER field. Where an individual is self-employed, th nature of the occupation should be listed. Where candidates left the EMPLOYER field blank, no credit was given for providing an answer.
Some of our contributors don't want their employers listed.	Ohio law requires that the employer information be provided. Privacy wishes contributors cannot supercede Ohio law
It doesn't seem fair that candidates are getting an "F" for not identifying the employer of only a few contributors.	These disclosure grades are based on whether each candidate disclosed information required by law. Some candidates with very few contributions received low grades for failing to disclo those few contributions. We encourage more attention focused toward candidat who failed to disclose substantial numb of contributors.
Candidate believed she/he submitted the missing information to the local Board of Elections, however neither the Board nor the Ohio Secretary of State had no record of that filing.	Candidates were given credit for past submission of information when they se the Center copies of addenda already fil. Candidates were not given credit if the l Board of Elections and the Ohio Secreta of State had no record of addenda.
It is unfair to grade candidates on the percent of the amount identified rather than on the number of contributions properly identified.	Grading on the percentage of the amoun identified encourages legislators to iden major donors first. To follow the money flow in politics it is more important for voters to have information about the individuals giving the largest donations.

Recommendations

I. Statewide and legislative candidates and legislators should -

- A) Provide employer identifications for all forms of contributions from individuals, including in-kind contributions.
- B) File campaign finance reports electronically as soon as is possible for each campaign.
- C) Support efforts to require more candidates to file electronically.

II. The Ohio Secretary of State should -

- A) Create an auditing procedure for data entry work that screens for duplicate entries, correct numbers, and failure to data enter employer identifications or company names.
- B) Offer more intensive training to new candidates, many of whom are unaware of disclosure requirements. All of the candidates in 1999-2000 who received an F grade, except one, were new or appointed candidates.
- C) Distribute only updated campaign finance forms.
- D) Review electronically filed data to confirm that data is entered into appropriate fields.
- E) Auditors should reject employer identifications such as "professor," "nurse" and "administrative assistant" that do not provide the employer of people who are not self-employed.

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The Citizens Policy Center, a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization, is the research and public education affiliate of Ohio Citizen Action. The Center was founded in Cleveland in 1976 to conduct research and public education about issues affecting industrial states, recognizing that the industrial states were going through economic changes that would make obsolete much of the conventional wisdom about state and local public policy.

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