



Betty Ireland  
Secretary of State

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Secretary of State Betty Ireland announces major upgrade to campaign finance reporting system**

CHARLESTON, WV – On Friday, Secretary of State Betty Ireland unveiled a major upgrade to the Secretary of State’s Campaign Finance Reporting System available at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com) and [www.WVvotes.com](http://www.WVvotes.com). Anyone interested in following contributions to statewide campaigns will now be able to search electronically for contributors by name or employer, among other search criteria. Adding this search feature will help voters easily determine who, in particular, is funding campaigns for any statewide office.

“I am pleased to offer this new feature to the ever improving and expanding Campaign Finance Reporting System,” Secretary Ireland said. “This upgrade will go a long way to ensuring transparency and accountability in elections, which have been top priorities for my office.”

Before the upgrade, an individual had to manually scan each and every report to find relevant information. Now the information can be readily accessed by simply plugging in the name of the contributor or any other desired search criteria, including contributor’s occupation, employer, city, state or zip code. Users can also search for campaign expenditures (for example, to television stations or campaign consultants) in the same manner.

In 2007, the Legislature passed a measure proposed by Secretary Ireland requiring all statewide candidates to file campaign finance reports online. To prepare for the new online filings, Secretary Ireland also implemented a means to allow candidates to bulk upload data, rather entering the information line by line, saving candidates time and resources. Collectively, the upgrades to the Campaign Finance Reporting System translate to getting relevant financial information to the public much faster than in days past.

“It is vital that voters have convenient and timely access to information about those who financially support candidates for elective office,” Secretary Ireland stated. “As West Virginians decide how we will cast our ballots in the May 13<sup>th</sup> primary, we now have one more tool to help us make informed decisions on those seeking our trust and our vote.”