Open Democracy

FACT SHEET

SB 248, Addressing the LLC Loophole in Election Spending Law

<u>SB 248</u> requires that a political contribution by a limited liability company (LLC) be allocated to members for purposes of determining whether a member has exceeded the contribution limits.

Committee: Election Law and Municipal Affairs.

Sponsors: Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Rep. M. Smith, Straf. 6

A bill that would close a loophole that lets business owners make multiple campaign contributions to a single candidate, going beyond the current contribution limit, which has risen from \$7,000 to \$15,000 due to HB 263.

- The "LLC Loophole" allows individuals to donate more than the limit anonymously through multiple LLCs often created for just this purpose.
- LLCs have been used by both Democrat and Republican donors.
- Some LLCs allowed six families to make more political contributions than the individual 2019 maximum of \$7,000, totalling over \$147,000 in a six month period.
- LLCs are sometimes established to help disguise the identity of a donor or source of money spent on behalf of a political candidate.
- Out-of-state campaign donors and even foreign campaign donors could be bankrolling ads and candidates in New Hampshire, and you would only have the name of the LLC which gave the money.
- Past bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to close this loophole, including HB 1394, HB 105(2021), SB 156 (2019), HB 1368 (2018), and SB 115 (2017).

How you can help:

- SB 248 will be heard in committee on Monday, February 14 at 1:00pm. You can register your support for SB 248 here, selecting the 2/14/22, selecting Senate Election Laws and Municipal Affairs Committee, selecting SB 248, and choosing to support this bill.
- Thank you for supporting fair elections in the state of New Hampshire!