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## **STENEHJEM CREATES ELECTION LAWS TASK FORCE US Supreme Court Decision Affects ND Laws**

BISMARCK – A decision by the US Supreme Court yesterday could have a major effect on North Dakota's election laws. The decision in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* eases restrictions on corporate campaign spending.

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has created an Election Laws task force to analyze the court's ruling and craft proposed legislation to preserve as much of North Dakota's current campaign contribution limitations laws as possible. The task force also will review state law relating to campaign advertising disclaimers.

"Most disclaimers in campaign commercials are little more than a brief and obscure reference rather than an accurate reflection of who is actually paying for the advertisement. If a special interest group is funding a political commercial, that should be made clear to citizens," said Stenehjem.

The task force, which Stenehjem will chair, includes Secretary of State Al Jaeger, Senator Ray Holmberg (R-Grand Forks), a representative from the Legislative Council, and Bismarck attorney Jack McDonald, who represents state media. The first meeting will be in early February.

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