



SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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REP. SONDY POPE RECUSES HERSELF FROM VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE BILL

MADISON – Today, the Assembly took up two contentious bills for debate, AB 387 and AB 388. AB 387 would re-write campaign finance laws to give corporations greater influence over elections, index campaign contribution limits to match inflation and would also allow individuals to anonymously spend unlimited amounts in campaigns. The bill ultimately passed, with 61 in favor. However Representative Sondy Pope (D-Cross Plains), along with 35 other colleagues, recused herself from the vote:

“It’s amazing to me that Republicans have no issue raising personal fundraising limits to increase with inflation, when not a single one supported the proposal to match the funding of our schools at the same rate,” said Rep. Pope. “It is evident that Republican’s self-serving interests and job-security are of a much higher priority than providing adequate funding to the schools and teachers that are responsible for educating our kids.”

“Furthermore, altering campaign finance law, especially legal decisions to increase the amount of funds a legislator can accept in their campaign, presents a significant conflict of interest,” said Rep. Pope. “Because of this conflict of interest, I felt it necessary to recuse myself from the vote. I cannot vote on an issue that so clearly affects me personally.”

In explaining her recusal on the floor Rep. Pope referenced the sanctity and ethics of the oath of office taken when legislators are sworn into office.

“In my work as a legislator, I am to be as ethical as possible - to always vote with my constituents’ interests in mind, over my own. For this bill particularly, my vote could be based on how it would affect me and other legislators – a serious conflict of interest.”

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