

Today's Lead: Last-Ditch Effort For Campaign Finance Reform Fails

Posted on Jun 21, Posted by [David Howard King](#) Category [The Eye-Opener](#)

Last-Ditch Effort For Campaign Finance Reform Fails in Senate

Senate Democrats [tried to bring a campaign finance proposal to a vote](#) through a hostile amendment last night but the measure failed. Republicans ruled the amendment not germane but Democrats requested a vote of the entire chamber to rule on whether it was appropriate. Thirty legislators voted to support the amendment. Those legislators included the four members of the Independent Democratic Conference who have [come under attack by advocates](#) for not bringing campaign finance to a vote. Sen. Malcolm Smith who last caucused with the IDC voted against the amendment. Smith is currently under indictment for fraud and bribery. Sen. Ruben Diaz, who conferences with Democrats, also voted against the measure. All of the Republican conference voted against the amendment. Democrats had a press release ready blaming the Republican/IDC conference for the amendment's failure but [all of the IDC did vote for the amendment](#).

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