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is in the best shape now that it's ever been in, and can guarantee with the most certitude now than every before that there would be funds to meet the public requirement, should that be triggered. Then, just this last election cycle, for the very first time the constitutional officers were included. And I want to come back to that on the Lorelee Byrd case, because I think the fact that the constitutional officers were included for the first time had something to do with the error that was made in that situation. It was a new experience for constitutional officers, but those races were covered and now the Governor-Lieutenant Governor race is the only race that is not under the Campaign Finance Reform Act. Will it be included two years from now? No, because there won't be sufficient funds there to trigger that inclusion. So the Governor's race is still at least six years off in terms of being included.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But the amount of money in the fund now is about \$560,000. Given the history that we have now, we can say fairly conclusively that that's certainly adequate money to protect in the races that the act covers. So there is no such thing as a race to the campaign coffers. All that money is fine and penalty money. Senator Brashear was quick to point out that the Attorney General thought it was suspect. I would be just as quick to point out that legal counsel for the Accountability Commission doesn't think so. In any event, that doesn't go to the main operations and the fairness and the equity principles that are behind the Campaign Finance Reform Act, all of which continue...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Time, Senator Beutler. And you are next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...continue to make sense. I know I speak too much conceptually sometimes and not enough by example, and I want to talk about some examples and how I think the act has worked. And Senator Erdman and I see even his own race in a different way. But in terms of highly contested races, there were four races in the last couple of cycles that I think illustrate the working of the Campaign Finance Reform Act. One of them is the Erdman-Matzke race. In that race, Senator Matzke