

## ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda--underwritten by global corporations--includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

## ALEC's Corporate Board --in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
- centerpoint360
- UPS
- Bayer Corporation
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Energy Future Holdings
- Johnson & Johnson
- Coca-Cola Company
- PhRMA
- Kraft Foods, Inc.
- Coca-Cola Co.
- Pfizer Inc.
- Reed Elsevier, Inc.
- DIAGEO
- Peabody Energy
- Intuit, Inc.
- Koch Industries, Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Verizon
- Reynolds American Inc.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Salt River Project
- Altria Client Services, Inc.
- American Bail Coalition
- State Farm Insurance

For more on these corporations, search at [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org).

**DID YOU KNOW?** Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

Home → Model Legislation → Tax and Fiscal Policy

### The Balanced Budget Certification Act

#### Summary

Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring {Appropriate Statewide Elected Official Not Involved in Writing or Approving the State Budget} to estimate state revenues and certify that all spending proposed by the Legislature is funded with available revenue.

#### Legislation

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF {insert state}:**

**Section 1.** Article xx, {insert state} Constitution, is amended by adding Section xx to read as follows:

Section xx: {Financial Statement and Estimate by {Appropriate Official}; Limitation of Appropriations}

(A) It shall be the duty of the {Appropriate Statewide Elected Official Not Involved in Writing or Approving the State Budget} in advance of each Regular Session of the Legislature to prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Legislature upon its convening a statement under oath showing fully the financial condition of the State Treasury at the close of the last fiscal period and an estimate of the probable receipts and disbursements for the then current fiscal year. There shall also be contained in said statement an itemized estimate of the anticipated revenue based on the laws then in effect that will be received by and for the State from all sources showing the fund accounts to be credited during the succeeding budget period and said statement shall contain such other information as may be required by law. Supplemental statements shall be submitted at any Special Session of the Legislature and at such other times as may be necessary to show probable changes.

(B) Except in the case of emergency and imperative public necessity and with a four-fifths vote of the total membership of each House, no appropriation in excess of the cash and anticipated revenue of the funds from which such appropriation is to be made shall be valid. No bill containing an appropriation shall be considered as passed or be sent to the Governor for consideration until and unless the {Appropriate Statewide Elected Official Not Involved in Writing or Approving the State Budget} endorses his certificate thereon showing that the amount appropriated is within the amount estimated to be available in the affected funds. When the {Appropriate Statewide Elected Official Not Involved in Writing or Approving the State Budget} finds an appropriation bill exceeds the estimated revenue he shall endorse such finding thereon and return to the House in which same originated. Such information shall be immediately made known to each House and the necessary steps shall be taken to bring such appropriation to within the revenue, either by providing additional revenue or reducing the appropriation.

#### Section 2.

(A) The constitutional amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted

Did you know that the Evergreen Freedom Foundation--which is connected to the Kochs--was the corporate co-chair in 2011?"

to the voters at an election to be held {appropriate date}. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment requiring {Appropriate Statewide Elected Official Not Involved in Writing or Approving the State Budget} to estimate state revenues and certify that all spending proposed by the Legislature is funded with available revenue."

*Adopted by the Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force at the Annual Meeting, August 7, 2010. Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors, September 19, 2010.*

**Center for Media and  
Democracy's quick summary**

This would amend the state constitution to require an "appropriate" state official holding an elected statewide office to estimate revenues and certify that any proposed spending will be funded with available or projected revenue. It would prohibit any spending expected to exceed anticipated revenue, except in the case of emergency and with a four-fifths vote.

**About Us** and **ALEC EXPOSED**. The Center for Media and Democracy reports on corporate spin and government propaganda. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin, and publish [www.PRWatch.org](http://www.PRWatch.org), [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org), and now [www.ALECexposed.org](http://www.ALECexposed.org). For more information contact: [editor@prwatch.org](mailto:editor@prwatch.org) or 608-260-9713.