

Death Penalty Referendum Funding

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - The Nebraskans for the Death Penalty campaign raised nearly \$244,000 in its first reporting period, with most of the money coming from Gov. Pete Ricketts and his father.

Ricketts and his father, TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts, each contributed \$100,000 to the ballot drive that could put the death penalty question to voters. An expense report released Friday says the campaign spent more than \$217,500 in the reporting period, leaving it with roughly \$26,300 in cash on hand.

The campaign was launched after Nebraska lawmakers abolished the death penalty over the governor's veto.

Nebraskans for the Death Penalty says it has paid roughly \$192,000 to Lincoln Strategy Group, an Arizona-based consultant that is using paid circulators to gather signatures.

A group opposing the referendum announced a \$400,000 donation last week.

Associated Press