

1 **Rule 2.2. Definitions.**

2 As used in Rule 2:

3 1. "Campaign" means all activities for or against the election of  
4 a candidate for elective state office or for or against a state  
5 question;

6 2. "Candidate" means an individual who has filed or should have  
7 filed a statement of organization for a candidate committee for  
8 state office with the Commission as required by these Rules. A  
9 candidate committee shall include committees for candidates for  
10 partisan elective offices, for nonpartisan judicial offices and  
11 for judicial retention offices;

12 3. "Candidate committee" means the only committee authorized by a  
13 candidate to accept contributions or make expenditures on behalf  
14 of the candidate's campaign, including the campaign of a judicial  
15 retention candidate;

16 4. "Clearly identified candidate" means a candidate whose name,  
17 nickname, photograph or drawing appears, or whose identity is  
18 otherwise apparent by unambiguous reference;

19 5. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Ethics Commission;

20 6. "Contribution" means any gift, subscription, loan, guarantee or  
21 forgiveness of a loan, conveyance, advance, payment, distribution  
22 or deposit of money made to, or anything of value given to, or an  
23 expenditure other than an independent expenditure made on behalf  
24 of, a political party, political action committee or candidate

1 committee, but shall not include the value of services provided  
2 without compensation by an individual who volunteers those  
3 services;

4 7. "Coordination" or "coordinated" means providing, making  
5 available information benefitting the candidate's campaign, or  
6 harming the campaign of an opponent of the candidate by a  
7 candidate, or an officer, agent, or consultant of a candidate  
8 committee that could reasonably be construed to further one or  
9 more communications advocating for the candidate, or, against an  
10 opponent of the candidate; or, that references the candidate or an  
11 opponent of the candidate within thirty days prior to a primary  
12 election or within 60 days prior to a general election when the  
13 cost of the communication is not paid for by the candidate or  
14 candidate's committee. Coordination does not include the use of  
15 information in a communication that is available to the general  
16 public so long as the candidate, or an officer, agent, or  
17 consultant of a candidate committee does not direct the  
18 information to a person, or agent of a person making the  
19 communication.

20 7 8. "Electioneering communication" means any communication or  
21 series of communications that is sent by Internet advertising,  
22 direct mail, broadcast by radio, television, cable or satellite,  
23 or appears in a newspaper or magazine that (a) refers to a clearly  
24 identified candidate for state office, (b) is made within sixty

1 (60) days before a general election (including a special general  
2 election) or thirty (30) days before a primary or runoff primary  
3 election (including a special primary or runoff primary election)  
4 for the office sought by the candidate, (c) that is targeted to  
5 the relevant electorate and (d) does not explicitly advocate the  
6 election or defeat of any candidate. "Relevant electorate" shall  
7 mean twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more persons in the State of  
8 Oklahoma in the case of a candidate for statewide elective office,  
9 two thousand five hundred (2,500) or more persons in the district  
10 the candidate seeks to represent in the case of a candidate for  
11 the Oklahoma State House of Representatives or judge of the  
12 District Court, and five thousand (5,000) or more persons in the  
13 district the candidate seeks to represent in the case of all other  
14 elective state offices. An electioneering communication shall not  
15 include:

- 16 a. news or feature reporting activities and editorial comment by  
17 working members of the press, however, such exception will  
18 not apply when the publisher is a political party, political  
19 action committee, or candidate or candidate committee;  
20 b. a candidate debate or forum so long as the sponsor of the  
21 debate or forum does not endorse, support, or oppose  
22 political candidates; and the sponsor does not promote or  
23 advance one political party over another except for a debate  
24 or forum held prior to a primary election where the

1 candidates involved are seeking the nomination of one  
2 political party;

3 & 9. "Expenditure" means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan,  
4 advance, compensation, reimbursement, fee, deposit or gift made by  
5 a political party, political action committee, candidate committee  
6 or other individual or entity that is used to expressly advocate  
7 the election, retention or defeat of one or more clearly  
8 identified candidates or for or against one or more state  
9 questions;

10 & 10. "Family member" shall include spouse, children (including  
11 stepchildren), mother, father, sister or brother;

12 ~~10~~1. "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure made by a  
13 person for a communication expressly advocating the election or  
14 defeat of a clearly identified candidate or a vote for or against  
15 the retention of a judicial retention candidate that is not  
16 coordinated~~made in coordination with, cooperation with,~~  
17 ~~consultation with, or concert with, or at the request or~~  
18 ~~suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate committee, or their~~  
19 ~~agents, or a political party committee or its agents. An~~  
20 independent expenditure shall not include:

- 21 a. the display of a noncommercial yard sign, lapel pin, button,  
22 bumper sticker or similar de minimis display of support or  
23 opposition to a political party or a candidate;

1 b. news or feature reporting activities and editorial comment by  
2 working members of the press, however, such exception will  
3 not apply when the publisher is a political party, political  
4 action committee, or candidate or candidate committee;

5 c. a candidate debate or forum so long as the sponsor of the  
6 debate or forum does not endorse, support, or oppose  
7 political candidates; and the sponsor does not promote or  
8 advance one political party over another except for a debate  
9 or forum held prior to a primary election where the  
10 candidates involved are seeking the nomination of one  
11 political party;

12 ~~12~~2. "Independent judicial retention committee" means a political  
13 action committee organized exclusively for the purpose of making  
14 independent expenditures or electioneering communications  
15 supporting or opposing the retention of a candidate  
16 For judicial retention;

17 ~~12~~3. "Labor union" means an organization of workers formed for the  
18 purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages,  
19 benefits and working conditions;

20 ~~13~~4. "Limited committee" means a political action committee  
21 organized to make contributions to candidates. A limited committee  
22 may make independent expenditures or electioneering  
23 communications, but may not accept contributions in excess of the  
24 limits prescribed for limited committees;

1 145. "Officeholder expenses" means ordinary and necessary expenses  
2 incurred in connection with a candidate's duties as the holder of  
3 a state elective office, provided that the expenses are not  
4 otherwise reimbursed or paid for by the state. "Ordinary and  
5 necessary expenses" are those that would not exist but for the  
6 fact that the candidate was elected to and holds a state elective  
7 office;

8 156. "Political action committee" means a limited or unlimited  
9 committee that has filed or should have filed a statement of  
10 organization with the Commission as required by these Rules;

11 167. "Political party" means a political party recognized under  
12 laws of this state;

13 178. "Political party committee" means a committee authorized by  
14 the political party to accept contributions or make expenditures  
15 on behalf of the political party. A political party committee may  
16 include a state committee, a Congressional District committee, a  
17 county committee, a precinct committee or any other committee or  
18 entity of the party officially recognized in the party's bylaws or  
19 similar governing document;

20 189. "State question communication" means an expenditure made by a  
21 person for a communication or series of communications that is  
22 sent by internet advertising, direct mail, broadcast by radio,  
23 television, cable or satellite, or appears in a newspaper,  
24 magazine, or other printed medium supporting or opposing a state

1 question that is made within sixty (60) days before the election  
2 deciding the state question. A state question communication shall  
3 not include the display of a noncommercial yard sign, lapel pin,  
4 button, bumper sticker or similar de minimis display of support or  
5 opposition to a state question;

6 ~~19~~20. "State question" means an initiative or referendum petition  
7 for which the Governor has issued a proclamation setting the date  
8 on which an election shall be held or a legislative referendum  
9 referred by the Legislature for a vote of the people; and

10 ~~20~~1. "Unlimited committee" means an independent judicial  
11 retention committee, a political action committee organized  
12 exclusively for the purpose of making independent expenditures or  
13 electioneering communications or a political action committee  
14 organized exclusively for the purpose of advocating the approval  
15 or defeat of a state question.