

LOCAL CANDIDATE COMMITTEES: CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

Contributions accepted by a candidate and a candidate committee may be used for the following types of expenditures:

- **Ordinary & necessary campaign expenses:** expenses that would not exist but for the campaign.
- **Officeholder expenses:** (apply only to elected officials) and are limited to the amount transferred forward from the committee for the **term of office they are currently serving**, not the term they are seeking re-election to. These expenses are expenses required because of the office held and are unique to the *office* not the *office holder*.
- **Surplus funds:** funds remaining in a campaign after the race for the candidate is decided.
- **Contributions to other local level candidates** (County to County, Municipal to Municipal, or School to School): Per campaign limits apply (**Lower contribution limit applies for different election years**).

Contributions shall **not** be spent for “personal use” which is “any use of funds to fulfill a commitment, obligation, or expense of any person that would exist irrespective of a committee’s activities or holder of elective state office.”

Cash withdrawals from the campaign checking account are **prohibited**. Expenses may only be made via check or debit card from a candidate committee account. Rule 2.95.

EXAMPLES OF PERMISSIBLE ORDINARY AND NECESSARY CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

Political Party Event Entry or Services Only. Example: Party X hosts a dinner event and charges \$100 per ticket although Party X’s cost is \$25/person. The candidate committee may pay \$25 but not \$100. No contribution may be made to a Political Party Committee until the candidate’s race is decided.	Vehicle Travel: include dates, # of miles traveled, purpose and reimbursement rate for 2024 (\$0.67 per mile or less). Example: 1,320 miles @ \$0.67 for Jan. and Feb. for campaign travel. <i>*Note: The reimbursement rate changes in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act rates.</i>
Campaign Consulting Fees: report with description of type of consulting. <u>Example:</u> Strategic, Fundraising or Media consulting.	Online Merchant Processing Fees
Office Supplies and Equipment (Assets must be sold at the close of committee)	Campaign Office Rent
Advertising	Legal Fees for the campaign
Staff Salaries: Report such expense by staff member’s name	Individual Memberships in Civic or Charitable Organizations: <i>does not include lifetime memberships.</i>
Modestly Valued Campaign Related Goods for Contributors and Volunteers. <u>Examples:</u> shirts, hats, bumper stickers or goods with campaign logo/slogan	Food and Beverages Related to Campaigning: door knocking, watch party, envelope stuffing, etc.
Bookkeeping or Accounting Services	Loan Payments: Only for properly executed loans. For candidates, this requires loan documents signed by lender and committee contemporaneously with the loan, and for the funds to <u>actually be deposited</u> in the campaign depository.
Reimbursement to Candidate for Campaign Purchases made with personal funds <u>within 90 days of the original expenditure</u> (initial purchase recorded as an in-kind expense to the vendor)	

EXAMPLES OF **PROHIBITED** “PERSONAL USE” EXPENSES

Personal residence mortgage, rent, utilities, food & supplies: even when the house is used for campaign purposes	Gifts: other than modestly valued campaign related goods to contributors or volunteers
Concert, theater, or sports tickets	Vacations or other trips not campaign related
Recreational clubs or memberships/dues: Hunting clubs, country clubs, fitness clubs, golf memberships, etc.	Loan Interest: On loan(s) made by the candidate or the joint funds of the candidate and candidate’s spouse
Personal items: including, but not limited to, apparel (other than modestly valued clothing with campaign logo), footwear, grooming, accessories & dry cleaning	Vehicle maintenance and gasoline: Only permissible if vehicle is wholly owned/leased by the candidate committee, used exclusively for campaign or officeholder purposes, and purchased from a licensed car dealer.