

## 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

<b>Political Party Event Entry or Services Only.</b> 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.	<b>Vehicle Travel:</b> include dates, # of miles traveled, purpose and reimbursement rate for 2022 (\$0.585 or less). Example: 1,320 miles @ \$0.585 for Jan. and Feb. for campaign travel. <i>*Note: The reimbursement rate changes in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act rates.</i>
<b>Campaign Consulting Fees:</b> report with description of type of consulting. <u>Example:</u> Strategic, Fundraising or Media consulting.	<b>Online Merchant Processing Fees</b>
<b>Office Supplies and Equipment</b> (Assets must be sold at the close of committee)	<b>Campaign Office Rent</b>
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>Legal Fees for the campaign</b>
<b>Staff Salaries:</b> Report such expense by staff member’s name	<b>Individual Memberships in Civic or Charitable Organizations:</b> <i>does not include lifetime memberships.</i>
<b>Modestly Valued Campaign Related Goods for Contributors and Volunteers.</b> <u>Examples:</u> shirts, hats, bumper stickers or goods with campaign logo/slogan	<b>Food and Beverages Related to Campaigning:</b> door knocking, watch party, envelope stuffing, etc.
<b>Bookkeeping or Accounting Services</b>	<b>Loan Payments: Only for properly executed loans.</b> 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.
<b>Reimbursement to Candidate for Campaign Purchases made with personal funds</b> <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

<b>Personal residence mortgage, rent, utilities, food &amp; supplies:</b> even when the house is used for campaign purposes	<b>Gifts:</b> other than modestly valued campaign related goods to contributors or volunteers
<b>Concert, theater, or sports tickets</b>	<b>Vacations or other trips not campaign related</b>
<b>Recreational clubs or memberships/dues:</b> Hunting clubs, country clubs, fitness clubs, golf memberships, etc.	<b>Loan Interest:</b> On loan(s) made by the candidate or the joint funds of the candidate and candidate’s spouse
<b>Personal items:</b> including, but not limited to, apparel (other than modestly valued clothing with campaign logo), footwear, grooming, accessories & dry cleaning	<b>Vehicle maintenance and gasoline:</b> 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.