

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Administrative Funds

The State Board of Elections issues this summary for publication and inclusion as a section in the Summary Guide reaffirming its legal understanding of Administrative or Operational funds maintained by state or local political party central committees (hereinafter as “Administrative Funds”). Administrative Funds are contributions earmarked by the donor used for non-campaign related expenditures.

After consulting with the Attorney General’s office and reviewing past Attorney General’s opinions and advice, the State Board of Elections deems the following activities as normal party operations and may use administrative funds as payment. If any portion of the following expenses relates to a specific election or candidate, then that portion of the expense may not be paid with administrative funds.

- Salary for central committee employees, including part-time employees;
- Office equipment and supplies;
- Cell phones, pagers and blackberries for staff, including part-time staff and volunteers;
- Maintenance of a voter file;
- Voter registration activity;
- Generic issue polling;
- Rent, utilities and building maintenance for the central committee headquarters and offices;
- Bank charges and accounting fees such as tax preparations or filing of Campaign Finance Reports;
- Legal fees for litigation arising from campaign activities by the central committee;
- Payment of late fees for failure to file Campaign Finance Reports

Moreover, the State Board of Elections declares the following activities as election related. As such, administrative funds may not be expended. These activities shall be paid for with contributions and/or transfers subject to Election Law Article §13-226 and §13-227.)

- Walk around services and get out the vote activities;
- Maryland state or local candidate specific polling;
- Newsletters (except for portions dedicated to voter registration activity or generic issue polling);
- Flyers, brochures, signs and other forms of public communications referencing a state or local candidate, a slate of state and/or local candidates or a political party;
- Supplies or equipment used for or by candidates, public communication referencing candidates or slates, or election related activities;
- Salary or payments to get out the vote (GOTV) consultants and other workers hired specifically for Election Day activities;
- Cell phones, pagers and blackberries used by get out the vote (GOTV) consultants and other workers hired specifically for Election Day activities and
- All other activities not designated in the permissible uses of Administrative Funds.

The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division will regulate the use of Administrative Funds in accordance with this summary.

The Office of the Attorney General was consulted and concluded that the State Board of Elections is within its authority to clarify Administrative Funds and reviewed and approved this summary.

Conduct inconsistent with this summary will be considered an expenditure violation of the Election Law Article and will be referred to the State Prosecutor's office. The State Prosecutor's Office has been advised of this summary.