



State of New Jersey

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September 26, 1994

The Honorable Jeff Warsh  
Assemblyman, 18th Legislative District  
100 Plainfield Ave., Suite 1  
Edison, New Jersey 08817

Advisory Opinion No. 09-1994

Dear Assemblyman Warsh:

The Commission has directed me to issue this response to your request for an advisory opinion concerning permissible uses of candidate funds pursuant to the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq. (hereafter, the Act).

In your letter, dated June 29, 1994, you asked whether campaign contributions which you have received could be used to pay for your costs in attending the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Annual Meeting. By letter dated June 29, 1994, the Commission advised you that it would defer a response to your request pending its implementation of new regulations on the subject of permissible uses of candidate funds. At its meeting of September 20, 1994, the Commission approved for adoption a final text of these regulations, and a copy of that text is enclosed for your reference. Further, the Commission directed me to issue this response to your inquiry.

You have asked whether campaign contributions you have received pursuant to the Act can be used to pay costs incurred by you arising out of your attendance at the NCSL annual meeting. The purpose of this meeting is principally educational, and the Annual Meeting is widely recognized as an opportunity for State legislators and other officials to meet and participate in seminars on issues of concern to state governments.

Please note the text of N.J.A.C. 19:25-6.7(e)3 (page 4 in the enclosed regulations). Pursuant to this provision, the costs of membership in educational organizations related to officeholding duties, and costs of registration and attendance at conferences in connection with officeholding duties are permissible uses of candidate funds. Also, such costs may include reasonable expenses of travel, lodging and other subsistence expenses. The

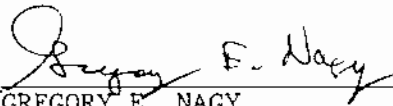
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Commission concludes that the NCSL Annual Meeting is related to carrying out the duties of State legislative office as to come under the provisions of the above-cited regulation. Therefore, the costs of registration and reasonable expenses of travel, lodging and other subsistence expenses are permissible uses of candidate funds provided they are not being paid for by the State, see N.J.A.C. 19:25-6.7(e).

Thank you for your inquiry, and for your patience while the regulatory process was being completed.

Very truly yours,

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

By:   
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GREGORY E. NAGY  
Legal Director

GEN  
enclosure