

Cook, Scott

From: Mike Polaske <mpolaske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:22 AM
To: Cook, Scott
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Attn Debbie

Scott,

I spoke with Beth and she has not seen any complaint. Based upon our understanding of the law here is our response. Please let me know if anything else is needed?

Response

Beth has not seen any complaint that she knows of. Here is my response based upon how we read the law. MCA 13-37-240 states can not be donated to another campaign—the CCR PAC is not a campaign. ARM 44.11.702. (7)

7) A candidate or an eligible elected official shall not contribute surplus campaign funds to a political committee. However, nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the contribution of surplus campaign funds to a political party or a political party committee, so long as the funds are not earmarked for a specific campaign.

The CCR PAC has not earmarked those funds for a specific campaign and that is what the rule states not that it is prohibited.

The complaint also states we should “know” better so to punish us extra severely. Please note that I try diligently to always call or email and ask questions. The law looked very clear that we just cannot earmark the money for a specific campaign and that was NOT done.

Please see that we are not in violation of the complaint. If you need any other materials for your research please let me know.

Thanks,
Michael Polaske
CCR PAC Chairman

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2022, at 9:58 AM, Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov> wrote:

Mike,

The complaint was originally sent to Beth Cooper because she is the listed Treasurer for the committee; Rudolph Tankink was also included on that message, being the only Additional Officer noted. If you will be handling campaign finance reporting for the CCR PAC or wish to receive correspondence from the COPP, the committee will need to update the C-2 Statement of Organization to list you as the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer.

Scott Cook
Compliance Specialist
Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices
(406) 444-4627
SCook3@mt.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Polaske <mpolaske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 9:35 AM
To: Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Attn Debbie

Good morning,
I have not seen this email or complaint against the PAC until now. I am checking with Beth on it now.
Thanks
Mike
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2022, at 9:25 AM, Cook, Scott <SCook3@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for reaching out. To begin, please note that COPP has received a formal Complaint naming the CCR PAC as the respondent- Ward v. Cascade County Republicans PAC, COPP-2022-CFP-002. As a courtesy, a copy of that Complaint and a letter from Commissioner Mangan are both attached to this email. Please note that the COPP does require a formal response from the CCR PAC in this matter.

To answer your specific question/s, political committees would be allowed to display candidate campaign materials they have been provided. A committee may use material it has been provided by a candidate/candidate's campaign as they see fit in the same way an individual can. For example, a political committee may publicly display a yard sign that has been given to it by a candidate, as can an individual citizen. Keep in mind that the committee would need to report and attribute any material supporting/opposing candidates or ballot issues that it has directly paid to produce or distribute.

The Commissioner is considering the specific complaint you have mentioned- Ward v. Short, COPP-2022-CFP-001- as an individual matter, one which does not require any response from or action by the CCR PAC. That said, we may reference the information included in your email in the investigation of that matter and consider it when coming to a formal Decision.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions- I can be reached via telephone at (406) 444-2942 or via email at scook3@mt.gov.

Scott Cook
Compliance Specialist
Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices
(406) 444-4627
SCook3@mt.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Polaske <mpolaske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:50 AM
To: CPP Help <cpphelp@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn Debbie

Good morning,

My name is Michael Polaske and I am the new Chairman of the Cascade County Republicans PAC. Ph 406-750-0876

I spoke in the phone a few minutes ago and was asked to send an email. I want to make sure I have the correct thinking and am on the correct page.

The PAC did the Fair last year and all the information and posters put in the booth were grabbed and put in by the PAC. No candidate new their sign or info was being put in our booth. Trent Short had a homemade sign we put in our booth and then it was in a picture on our facebook page. Is it not OK for the PAC to do that? I know there was a complaint made against Trent and the homemade sign being shown on our Facebook page. Trent had no idea that the homemade sign was going into the fair booth or our Facebook page. 2nd, can we take candidate professional signs and use them without their knowledge in PAC booths and advertising? 3rd, can we advertise anyway we choose for Republican Precinct Committee folks and use the BIO we get from them? We ask questions and get BIOs to then vet all candidates to see if the PAC will endorse them or not. Only if we collaborate an in Kind needs filled from the Candidate? Do Precinct Committee people fall under the same guidelines sense they don't pay to run or file with the COPP?

As always your staff and support is very helpful and allows the organization to move in the right direction.

Thanks for your time,

Michael Polaske
CCR PAC Chairman
406-750-0876

Sent from my iPhone