



ADVISORY OPINION 92-2

In response to a letter raising various questions relating to campaign finance reporting, the Ethics Commission offers the following opinions to these questions (in the order in which they were posed):

1. If the caller does not incur an added telephone bill, then the contribution for the telephone calls need not be listed. In terms of time, heat, and lights, these would appear to be inconsequential matters.
2. (A) Unless the amount of the finance director's time taken up is unduly burdensome, the director's time need not be reported.

(B) There was no actual, direct financial contribution and City officials should be required to devote a modicum of time to providing information to candidates.
3. There would be no requirement to report favorable newspaper articles as a contribution.
4. The actual out-of-pocket expenditure should be reported if it is a significant sum, say \$25 or more.
5. One would assume that the costs (i.e., labor by supporter, postage stamps, paper and envelopes of a small mailing) incurred were so insignificant as to not require reporting.
- 6 - 9 and 14. Same as number 5.
10. The added costs to the employer of the telephone, if known, should be reported. It is the responsibility of the candidate to tell supporters not to use employer's telephone.
11. Need not be reported as a campaign contribution, but may fall under the \$25 gift limitation of Section 38-3A(6) of the Ethics Code.
12. We are awaiting clarification on this issue.
13. A report need only be made to the extent that the use of the facilities is increased above and beyond what it would have been otherwise.

15. If the contributor incurs costs in securing the stake and the candidate knows of it, it should be included. The contributor may have a recycled use for the stake such as for tomato plants or school projects.
16. If the cost of the dinner and wine is merged in the romanticizing, it need not be reported. The cost of the condom was probably of equal benefit to the citizen and need not be reported.
17. By use of the mural, it is assumed that the use is nothing more than the candidate making reference to the mural and, therefore, the cost need not be reported.

Mary Armstrong, Member

Barbara Cain, Member

Mary Hollomand, Member

Lou A. Stengard, Member

Robert Smaldore, Chairman