

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE TREASURY BUILDING



LANSING  
MICHIGAN 4891

May 23, 1978

Mr. Zolton Ferency  
P.O. Box 20  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Mr. Ferency:

This is in response to your request for a declaratory ruling concerning the applicability of the Campaign Finance Act, P.A. 388 of 1976 ("the Act"), to a political fundraising event held on tax-exempt property.

You state that your candidate committee requested Michigan State University authorities for permission to conduct a fundraising event on campus property. In response to the request, University officials advised that Section 913 of P.A. 116 of 1954, prohibits the solicitation of political contributions on tax-exempt property.

You question whether Section 81 of the Act (MCLA § 169.281) repealed Section 913 of P.A. 116 of 1954?

Section 913 states (in part):

"Except for religious, charitable or educational purposes, no person, firm, association or corporation or any person working in their behalf shall ask, request or demand within any building or on any property which is exempt from the general property tax of this state, any donation, gift, contribution, pledge, purchase of tickets or similar demand for the purpose of furthering or defeating the candidacy of any candidate for public office or any proposed law, or other measure that may be submitted to popular vote."

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Section 81 of the Act states:

"(1) Sections 901 to 929 of Act No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1954, as amended, being sections 168.901 to 168.929 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, are repealed.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not take effect until June 1, 1977."

Accordingly, Section 913 of P.A. 116 of 1954 was repealed on June 1, 1977. Therefore, it no longer constitutes a legal restriction on solicitation of political contributions on tax-exempt property.

This response constitutes a declaratory ruling concerning the applicability of the Act to the factual situation detailed in your request.

Sincerely,

  
Richard H. Austin  
Secretary of State