

DATE	TO WHOM	TYPE OF RULING	SECTION OF LAW	SYNOPSIS/SUMMARY	FULL TEXT (SEARCH BY YEAR)
11/01/2011	Doster	DR	15	The MCFA applies to the contributions received and expenditures made for recall activities associated with a clarity hearing, such as the costs incurred in drafting and preparing the recall petition or attending or participating in such hearing. Legal fees paid or incurred for the purposes of prosecuting or defending such a lawsuit are regulated under the MCFA.	2011
08/19/2011	McRae	DR	56	Since the MCFA is silent on the method of filing campaign statements with the county clerk, a county may pass an ordinance that specifies the method. It is the Department's opinion that the method for the filing may include electronic filing, but the requirements triggering the electronic filing must not be more restrictive than the provisions contained in the MCFA.	2011
05/21/2010	LaBrant	DR	55, 3, 24, 8, 54, 9, 3, 42	The political committee is the only mechanism available for reporting the corporation's independent expenditures for the political speech permitted under Citizens United. The limited impact of Citizens United under the MCFA is that it allows a corporation to make and report independent expenditures by engaging in political speech and be funded exclusively by that corporation. A filer will comply with the Act's reporting requirements by filing a campaign statement consisting of a cover page, a summary page, Schedule 2B-1 (Itemized Independent Expenditures) and Schedule 2A-1 (Itemized Other Receipts). The latter schedule would report expenditures made during that reporting period. Section 42(2) prohibits acceptance of certain contributions unless accompanied by a certified statement which, among other things, states that the contribution from the out-of-state contributor "was not made from an account containing funds prohibited by section 54." If the potential contributor is a corporation, labor organization, or domestic dependent sovereign, there are no circumstances in which the accompanying certified statement is required. The MCFA does not permit contributions from those entities. [RESCINDED: MI Chamber of Commerce, et al v Land, 2010 US Dist LEXIS 75186 (WD MI, 2010). The general treasury funds of a corporation, labor union, or domestic dependent sovereign may be used to make contributions to a political committee which is organized exclusively for the purpose of making independent expenditures that are not in any way directly or indirectly "coordinated" with a candidate, candidate committee, political party, or political party committee.]	2010
03/26/2010	Doster	IS	4,6	A candidate workshop is governed by the Act only if the constitutes a contribution to a candidate or an expenditure the sponsoring organization. In making this determination, the Department will take into account the extent to which a candidate workshop furnishes generic campaign information, and consider whether the sponsoring organization has engaged in express advocacy or sought to persuade attendees to adopt certain policy positions.	2010
01/13/2010	Richner	IS	45	It is reasonable to presume that compensation paid by the recipient charitable organization to a candidate's spouse or dependent child will always benefit the candidate, whether the benefit derived by the candidate is direct or indirect. In these circumstances, the candidate may not transfer unexpended funds to that charitable organization. On the other hand, it is possible that a candidate would not benefit from compensation paid to a non-dependent child or to a child who does not reside in the same household as the candidate. The	2010

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				transfer of unexpended funds could be allowed depending upon the specific fact of each case.	
12/15/2009	Jacobs	AG #7240		Under sections 9(1) and 21a of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, MCL 169.209(1) and 169.221a, the candidate committee of an elected official is permitted to make an expenditure for an incidental expense to pay for legal fees incurred by the officeholder to defend against criminal charges, but only if that the expense is an ordinary and necessary business expense of the elected official as described under section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 USC 162, and is paid or incurred in carrying out the business of an elective office. To qualify as such an ordinary and necessary business expense, the source of the charge or the character of the conduct from which the charge stems must arise in the course of carrying out the business of being a public official. Expenses incurred to defend against charges that originate from personal activity unrelated to performing the functions of the public official's office will not so qualify.	AG Opinion #7240
12/15/2009	LaBrant	IS	2, 3, 4, 6, 24	An idea has evolved into a ballot question when the proponents undertake any action that is reasonably designed to result in the qualification and passage of a ballot question. The proponents make an expenditure to the extent that their preliminary activity directly influences or attempts to influence the qualification of the ballot question or the outcome of an election regarding that question. (See AG Opinion #7240 above)	2009
07/08/2009	Garrett	IS	9	Attorney fees paid by a candidate committee are not specifically authorized by section 9(1) of the MCFA, the filing official designated by law to receive a candidate committee's campaign statements must issue a notice of error or omission requesting an explanation of these expenditures. MCL 169.216(6). The officeholder must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the designated filing official that payment of such expenses from his or her candidate committee's funds is proper. Uncorrected errors or omissions are reported to the Attorney General. MCL 169.216(8). In support of a claim that an expenditure is an incidental expense, the filing official ought to require the officeholder to submit documentation supporting is or her position. Such evidence should include a statement from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that the legal fees at issue constitute "an ordinary and necessary expense, as described in ... 26 USC 162, paid or incurred in carrying out the business of an elective office [,]" as it is the ultimate authority on tax matters.	2009
12/17/2007	Murley	IS	6	A donation from a Candidate Committee to the Michigan Political History Society MPHS may be expenditure if the committee can demonstrate an identifiable, tangible benefit that advances the candidate's nomination or election. The committee can donate the funds under the incidental expense provision of the MCFA and the dissolution process to the MPHS. A PAC may donate to the MPHS in any lawful manner.	2007
11/21/2007	Zucker	IS	24, 31, 12	ActBlue cannot operate in Michigan as a bundling committee; act as an intermediary for the collection and delivery of contributions and earmark contributions for specific candidates. ActBlue must register as a committee if it receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$500.00 in	2007

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				any calendar.	
11/20/2006	Corkin Boyle	DR	4, 6, 11, 55, 57	A school district is prohibited by section 57 from using public resources to make deductions from employees' wages to facilitate contributions to the MEA-PAC, regardless of the MEA's offer to pay the costs of the payroll deduction plan before any contributions are collected. The advance payment of the school district's cost is not specifically authorized by the MCFA, and the AG has opined that such prepayment cannot cure the violation of section 57. The Department's prior ISs and DRs emphasize the necessity of prohibiting public bodies from engaging in campaign activities to preserve government neutrality in elections. (Gull Lake Schools)	2006
11/1/2006	Harty	DR	11, 57, 4, 6,	A school district is prohibited by section 57 of the MCFA from administering a payroll deduction plan for the collection and remittance of political contributions to the MEA-PAC and the MEA-PAC's offer to reimburse the school district for costs incurred in the operation of such a plan does not purge the violation. The Department offers no opinion concerning the school district's legal authority to execute a collective bargaining agreement containing such terms. (Gull Lake Schools)	2006
8/21/2006	Campbell	DR	45	A Ballot Question Committee may expend any portion of its remaining account balance for the payment of legal fees incurred in defense of the committee. Since the MCFA restricts the use of unexpended funds of a candidate committee and does not impose any such restrictions on other committees, then it can be concluded that a committee other than a candidate committee can disperse its remaining funds in any legal manner. Legal fees that are incurred "in assistance of, or in opposition to the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question" must be treated as expenditures and reported in accordance with the MCFA. (YES Saginaw Committee)	2006
2/17/2006	LaBrant	IS	55, 4, 30, 54,	A corporation is authorized to make an expenditure for administrative costs incurred in the operation of a payroll deduction plan on behalf of a labor organization's separate segregated fund (SSF), provided that the corporation receives timely, complete reimbursement for the actual amount of its expenditure. Methods for calculating corporate costs incurred in the collection of contributions for a labor union's SSF and the time limit for repayment depend on the nature of the corporation's business. A labor organization's failure to remit timely payment of the expenditure of corporate assets must result in the suspension of the payroll deduction plan. Nothing in the MCFA compels a corporation that operates a payroll deduction plan for contributions to its own SSF to offer the same opportunity to a labor organization. However, a corporation that voluntarily elects to finance the administrative expenses of a labor organization's SSF assumes an affirmative duty to comply with the MCFA by making an accurate calculation of its costs and obtaining full reimbursement of its expenses in a timely manner.	2006
2/17/2006	LaBrant	IS	57	It is imperative to maintain strict government neutrality in elections in order to protect the integrity of the democratic process. State and local units of government and their elected officials and employees, share a heightened duty to safeguard public resources from misuse for political purposes. The MCFA is only one part of the state's comprehensive statutory scheme that prohibits a public body from participating in	2006

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				political campaigns. A public body that administers a payroll deduction plan on behalf of a separate segregated fund (SSF) violates the MCFA and runs afoul of this sound public policy.	
2/16/2006	Schuitmaker	AG #7187	57	A payroll deduction plan in the state classified civil service under which state personnel and other resources are used to record, collect and disburse employee contributions to a PAC would violate section 57 even if the Union offers to reimburse the State. Section 57 would not preclude the Civil Service Commission from approving a collective bargaining agreement that would require the State to administer such a plan.	AG Opinion #7187
11/14/2005	LaBrant	IS	54	If a corporation through a payroll deduction system transfers anything of ascertainable monetary value for goods, materials, services or facilities to a committee other than its own SSF, it has made an expenditure that is prohibited by Section 54. If the value of the goods can be ascertained and the corporation is reimbursed, there is no corporate expenditure because there is no transfer of value.	2005
10/31/2005	Murley	IS	57	A public body that violates section 57 or the MCFA may be prosecuted for violating the law but is not required to register as a committee. This is consistent with the Department's interpretation of the MCFA for other entities that are prohibited from making contributions such as corporations. Communications of a public body are subject to the express advocacy test. A public official may not use public resources to disseminate an opinion with express advocacy that would be considered a violation of the MCFA such as mass email. A public body may not create and maintain links to web sites that expressly support or oppose candidates or ballot questions if the body does so for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election. Any broadcast or publication that is not produced in the regular course of publication falls outside the exemption of section 57.	2005
4/20/2004	LaBrant	IS	6(2)(b)	After a review of the Mconnell and Anderson cases, the department does not believe it has the authority to regulate issue ads. In determining which communications are subject to the MCFA, the department will continue to apply the express advocacy standard.	2004
5/30/2003	LaBrant	IS	9(2)	"Made at the direction of another person" means an expenditure of communication resulting from an expenditure that is organized, supervised or created by a candidate committee. An example would be a candidate committee that creates a proposed communication and gives it to an independent committee. If that independent committee then produced a communication that was substantially similar to the proposed communication it would have been made at the direction of the candidate committee. "Under the control of another person" would be a higher degree of power exercised by the candidate committee than "direction". A candidate committee's ability to terminate a potential expenditure, or a communication resulting from an expenditure would constitute control.	2003
5/30/2003	Doster	IS	2(1), 6	The Act does not govern the activities of persons, including political parties, whose activities cannot be defined as contributions or expenditures. The Act does not apply to MRSC's odd-year state conventions, presidential-year spring conventions, meetings, or conferences. (See also IS 8/21/79 McLellan)	2003

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12/9/2002	Loepp	IS	55(6), R39(d)	The Uniform Electronic Signatures Act or UESA (PA 305 of 2000) allows an employer to meet the Act's written annual affirmative consent requirements by collecting electronic signatures. Rule 39(d) requires the annual affirmative consent forms to be in "writing", but fails to define it. The UESA makes the definition unnecessary as it authorizes the use of electronic signatures between parties. BluesPac and other committees will have to determine whether their record system complies with the UESA.	2002
8/26/2002	Witte	IS	54(1)	The Department would not consider the employment of a vendor or agent that also works for a candidate committee to be per se evidence of direction or control by the committee. Our reading of both Michigan and federal law indicates that we do not have the authority to regulate ads that do not contain words of express advocacy. Because the communication itself may not be regulated, the Department also does not have the authority to investigate whether a candidate has directed or controlled an issue ad.	2002
6/14/2002	Corley	IS	2(4), 2(5), 26, 31, 31(2), 52	P.A. 250 does not preclude Emily's List from making expenditures to solicit an unlimited amount of contributions for any candidate as long as the individual contributions are sent directly to the candidate and not to Emily's List. Contributions that are sent directly to the candidate are not bundled. An independent committee can still 1) make a contribution to a candidate committee of \$34,000 2) may collect and deliver up to \$34,000 worth of individual contributions and 3) may, rather than giving directly) spend up to \$34,000 in solicitation and mailing costs that facilitate the contribution of funds directly from a donor to a candidate committee.	2002
5/17/2002	Nickelhoff	IS		Transfer of funds from a Federal PAC to Candidate Committee.	2002
1/9/2002	N/A	AG #7099		It is the opinion of Michigan's Attorney General that section 7b of the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act prohibits an officer or managerial employee of a casino, a casino enterprise, or of a licensed casino supplier from making a contribution to an independent committee operated by a professional organization to which the officer or employee belongs. It is the opinion of Michigan's Attorney General that an independent committee that receives a contribution prohibited by section 7b of the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act is not subject to a penalty for failure to return the contribution unless the committee first receives a notice from the Secretary of State in accordance with section 30 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.	AG Opinion #7099
6/15/2001	Boyle	IS	55	A corporation may place certain information on its website but may not expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate. Features on a corporate website which takes viewers to a candidate website, such as hyperlinks, constitute expenditures. However a committee can reimburse a corporation for placing a hyperlink or advertisement on its website. A corporation would have to charge the total cost or the market value whichever is greater.	2001
4/17/2001	N/A	AG #7080		It is the opinion of Michigan's Attorney General, that the Michigan Municipal League, a nonprofit corporation, may, consistent with the requirements of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, spend its corporate funds to support or oppose a ballot question.	AG Opinion #7080
8/17/2000	Daunt	IS	57	The mere act of voting on a resolution that encompasses	

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				matters at a meeting does not constitute a misuse of public resources within the meaning of section 57(1). Similarly, a public body may record that resolution in the meeting minutes, as required by the Open Meetings Act, and produce or disseminate copies of those minutes by a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or publication in the regular course of publication, as authorized by section 57(1)(c). No position is taken on whether a city is empowered to adopt resolutions supporting or opposing a candidate.	2000
12/9/1999	Cahill	IS	57	The MCFA (Michigan Campaign Finance Act) does not prohibit the University of Michigan from collecting student fees, depositing those fees in the MSA (Michigan Student Assembly) account, and later disbursing a portion of those fees for lobbying activities on behalf of MSA. When a constitutional amendment proposed under Const 1963, art 12 §1 is "qualified" as a ballot question, and provisions of the MCFA would thereafter apply to expenditures made to influence voters with respect to its passage or defeat. [Section 5(4) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act was amended (P.A. 1999, No. 237, Eff. March 10, 2000) to add the following words: "Elective office does not include a federal office except for the purposes of section 57."]	1999
12/9/1999	N/A	AG #7040		Michigan's Attorney General does not have the exclusive authority to enforce the criminal provisions of Michigan's Campaign Finance Act. The enforcement of such provisions may be prosecuted by the Attorney General or by county prosecuting attorneys.	AG Opinion # 7040
12/2/1999	Cella	IS	9(2)	No single factor will guarantee independence of a PAC, or be sufficient to indicate "direction and control." Instead, the Department must look at the totality of the circumstances before determining whether a contribution or expenditure is controlled by, or made at the direction of, another person.	1999
11/24/1999	Parrott	IS	Title	It is clear from your inquiry and the information provided that the election of members of the Retirement Commission of the Genesee County Employees' Retirement System is an employee relations election and not an election for political purpose. It appears that persons other than qualified and registered electors under Michigan law are entitled to cast a ballot in the retirement commission election. For these reasons, the Genesee County Employees' Retirement System commission is not an election within the purview of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Therefore, the provisions of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act do not apply.	1999
10/29/1999	Hanley	IS	5(4), 57	The Michigan Campaign Finance Act cannot regulate federal campaigns. However, other departments or branches of government may have the authority to prevent the unauthorized use of public resources (10/29/1999) [Subsequent to the issuance of this Interpretive Statement, Section 5(4) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act was amended (P.A. 1999, No. 237, Eff. March 10, 2000) to add the following words: "Elective office does not include a federal office except for the purposes of section 57."]	1999
8/31/1999	N/A	AG #7032		The Michigan Campaign Finance Act does not prohibit a state legislator's campaign committee from accepting campaign contributions from shareholders, officers or employees of corporations doing business with a corporation owned by the state legislator. (Please note that other state laws may restrict specified persons or entities from making political	AG Opinion # 7032

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				contributions to candidates or committees.)	
6/11/1999	Nominelli	IS	9, 26	The candidate may rent one-half of a duplex owned personally by the candidate to the Candidate Committee for use as a campaign headquarters. All committee expenditures for rent must be identified in the campaign statements filed by the committee. If rent is not charged, the committee would be required to report as an in-kind contribution by the candidate the fair rental value of the free use of one half of the duplex for campaign headquarters, or the difference between its fair rental value and any lesser amount actually paid as rent.	1999
8/4/1998	Cahill	IS	57	Section 57 of the MCFA (1995 PA 264 and 1996 PA 590) re-emphasized the ban on using public funds to make expenditures to ballot question committees, candidate committees or for the establishment, administration and solicitation of contributions to a separate segregated fund (SSF). Under this section, the University of Michigan would be prohibited from collecting and transferring student funds to a Ballot Question Committee account. In addition, the underlying prohibition in Section 57 cannot be avoided by permitting the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) to reimburse the University for activities, which are they prohibited by Section 57.	1998
7/27/1998	Stocker II	IS	28(2), R32	According to the facts presented, a proposed settlement between the Circus Circus executives and Mr. Larry Owen involves a business debt that was incurred by Mr. Owen as an individual and not as a candidate. The debt could not be repaid with funds acquired by the Larry Owen for Governor committee, which is limited to making expenditures in assistance of Mr. Owens nomination or election. Consequently, the proposed settlement of the outstanding debt is not a contribution and is not subject to the provisions of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.	1998
11/4/1997	Pirich/ Knowlton	IS	55(1)	A corporation does not violate section 55(1) of the MCFA by establishing one separate segregated fund to participate in MCFA-governed elections and one or more separate segregated funds to participate in elections governed by the laws of other jurisdictions. A corporation may solicit its Michigan employees for contributions to both separate segregated funds, provided the contributions solicited and accepted by the MCFA-governed fund conform with the requirements of section 55(6). A corporation that has received affirmative consent from contributors may continue to receive contributions to a multi-jurisdiction separate segregated fund during the remainder of 1997 while soliciting eligible employees to give affirmative consent to make contributions beginning January 1, 1998 to a Michigan only separate segregated fund. [Withdrawn: A separate segregated fund may not make expenditures in MCFA-governed elections after contributions obtained with affirmative consent are commingled with automatic contributions obtained without affirmative consent.]	1997
7/25/1997	N/A	AG #6946		Const 1963, art 6, § 19(2), which establishes a length of experience requirement for judges, mandates that a person be admitted to the practice of law for at least five years as of the date of taking judicial office.	AG Opinion #6946
7/11/1997	LaBrant	DR	55	A corporation does not violate section 55(1) of the MCFA by establishing one separate segregated fund (SSF) to participate in MCFA-governed elections and one or more SSFs to	

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				participate in elections governed by the laws of other jurisdictions. A corporation may solicit its Michigan employees for contributions to both SSFs, provided the contributions solicited and accepted by the MCFA-governed fund conform with the requirements of section 55(6). A corporation that has received affirmative consent from contributors may continue to receive contributions to a multi-jurisdiction SSF during the remainder of 1997 while soliciting eligible employees to give affirmative consent to make contributions beginning January 1, 1998 to a Michigan only SSF. A SSF may not make expenditures in MCFA-governed elections after contributions obtained with affirmative consent are commingled with automatic contributions obtained without affirmative consent.	1997
9/3/1996	Baird	IS	57	Section 57 does not restrict the constitutionally protected right to associate or to engage in political speech. It is intended to prevent those who control public resources from using those resources to influence the outcome of an election. It does not prohibit community organizations or local governments from making the views of candidates or those supporting or opposing ballot questions available, provided that government resources are not used to influence the outcome of the elections. Section 57 first became effective on March 28, 1996.	1996
4/8/1996	N/A	AG #6895		The disclosure requirement in section 47(1) of the Act violates the First Amendment to the Constitution and is accordingly void and unenforceable in its entirety. [Section 47 was amended P.A. 1996, No. 225, Imm. Eff. May 30, 1996 so an individual other than a candidate is no longer subject to section 47(1) if the individual is acting independently and not acting as an agent for a candidate or any committee.]	AG Opinion #6895
11/13/1995	Richardson, Jr	IS	16(3)	A for-profit corporation may use contributor information filed with the Secretary of State for resale to third parties who will use the information for noncommercial purposes, including the solicitation of potential contributors to campaign committees.	1995
5/25/1995	James & Natural Law Party	IS	Title, 4(1), 6(1), 11(5)	The Act does not apply to the circulation of qualifying petitions for a new political party. It follows then that donations made to assist a new political party in qualifying for the ballot are not contributions or expenditures as defined in the Act and a political party committee may accept and use corporate funds to pay for costs incurred in securing ballot access.	1995
5/10/1995	Hertel	IS	4(1), 6(1), 7(4), 9(1)(l), 44(2)	Officeholders purchasing tickets are subject to the \$100.00 limit if purchased as an incidental expense to office to any committee type, including other Candidate Committees. There is no limit on contributions made to political party independent, political or ballot questions committees when it is to further the nomination/election of the candidate/officeholder.	1995
4/3/1995	Ellsworth	DR	Title, 2(1), 2(4), 3(4), 6(1)	The Act does not require that contributions or expenditures regarding ballot questions be for the purpose of influencing voters. The purpose of the contributions or expenditures must be determined through the use of an objective standard. Legal expenses incurred to support or oppose a ballot question at any step are expenditures under the Act. Other legal expenses are expenditures only if they directly attempt to influence its qualification or the election. Legal expenses incurred before a ballot questions exists are not expenditures.	1995
2/13/1995	LaBrant & Bingo Coalition	DR		Processing of petitions seeking a referendum.	1995

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6/23/1994	N/A	AG #6807	4(1), 52, 54(1), 55, R35a	The prohibition on corporations making contributions or expenditures in elections for state office in section 54(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act does not apply to limited liability companies formed under the Michigan Limited Liability Company Act. Contributions or expenditures to a candidate from a limited liability company may be attributed to individual A limited liability company that has a corporation as a member may not make contributions or expenditures in elections for state office with funds derived from the corporation member. A limited liability company that has a corporation as a member may make contributions or expenditures in elections for state office with segregated funds derived from the non-corporate members of the limited liability company.	AG Opinion #6807
4/25/1994	LaBrant	DR	9(2)	The fair market value of poll results may be determined by using the federal rules or by some other reasonable method. The fair market value is then used as the value of the in-kind contribution given as a result of providing the poll results to a committee. Michigan Chamber of Commerce.	1994
2/1/1994	N/A	AG #6785	4(1)	A school district lacks the statutory authority to provide an expense account to one of its employees that may be used for the purpose of making contributions to candidates for public office. However, contributions made from such an account are attributable for purposes of contribution limits to both the employee and the school district. Neither school districts nor universities may pay for the costs associated with maintaining a separate segregated fund.	AG Opinion #6785
1/24/1994	Poor & Adv.Comm	IS	4(1), 7(4), 54	Unless clearly designated as being for other than campaign purposes, a commission paid by ACI to the MRP for a fund raising activity is a payment made for the purpose of influencing Michigan elections and is a contribution under the Act. As ACI is a corporation, a contribution from ACI is prohibited.	1994
11/2/1993	Sponsler	DR	3(4), 4(1), 6(1), 7(4), 11(1), 21(10), 31, 42(1), 44(1), 44(3), 52, 69	An organization does not become a committee by merely collecting and delivering contributions its members choose to make to candidates endorsed by the organization. However, the costs incurred to manage such an operation are in-kind contributions and must be considered when determining the organization's registration threshold and contribution limits to individual candidate committees.	1993
11/2/1993	Corley	DR	4(1), 6(1), 11(1), 21(10), 31, 42(1), 44(1), 44(3), 52, 69	A PAC may collect and deliver contributions its member chooses to make to Michigan candidates. However, the costs incurred in this process are considered in-kind contributions to the candidates and must be reported by the candidate committees and by the PAC. (Emily's List)	1993
9/13/1993	Pridnia	IS	49(1), R46(2), R65	An OEF may transfer assets directly to the Michigan State Senate as it is a charity. The officeholder may continue to use the assets while in public office, but the use of the assets by the officeholder constitutes an ongoing OEF subject to all the provision of the Act and rules governing OEFs. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1993
8/25/1993	N/A	AG #6767	4(1), 6(1), 55	Section 55 (1) of the Act does not allow a separate segregated fund established by a corporation to make contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a political committee.	AG Opinion #6767
8/11/1993	Fox	IS	12(1), 53,	A contribution from a minor is matchable under the Act's	

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			69, 70	public funding provisions and subject to the contribution limitations applicable to other individuals if the contribution is made from funds directed and controlled solely by the minor.	1993
8/4/1993	N/A	AG #6763	Title, 2(2)	The board of education of a local school district may not allow a ballot committee to lease school facilities, including school offices and phone, for the purpose of contracting the electorate of the school district to advocate the committee's position on a school millage ballot proposal.	AG Opinion #6763
8/4/1993	Olson	IS	6(3), 21(6)	A committee is required to hold assets only in a bank, savings and loan association or credit union. A committee is precluded from holding its assets in another investment vehicle and using an account in a financial institution for the purpose of depositing contributions and making expenditures.	1993
4/14/1993	Ayers	IS	3(4), 4(1), 6(3), 24(1), 44(1), 44(2), 54(2), 55	The officer of a corporation may not collect contributions from the other officers and forward them to the candidate. Such bundling of contributions would be construed as joint activity by the individuals involved, making them subject to the Act's requirements. If the officer simply discusses the candidates, there does not appear to be any joint activity among the officers. The communications would be in only one direction, no funds would be collected or "bundled" and no records of participation would be maintained. In these circumstances the activity does not trigger the registration and reporting requirements of the Act. An officer of a corporation may communicate with other shareholders and distribute literature produced at corporate expense. However, the officer is prohibited from using corporate time, property or other resources to distribute solicitation cards provided by a candidate committee.	1993
10/22/1992	Wolpe	DR	12(1), 45(1), 66(1)	The contribution limits for a gubernatorial committee are greater than the contribution limits prescribed in the Federal Election Campaign Act for federal committees. Therefore, the Act does not preclude transferring funds raised by a congressional committee to a gubernatorial candidate committee. Contributions made to a congressional committee are transferred to a gubernatorial candidate committee are not considered qualifying contributions and cannot be matched with public funds from the state campaign account. If a candidate chooses to accept public funds, the candidate's expenditures for each election are limited to those stated in section 67 of the Act. The definition of "expenditure" in section 6 is broad enough to include testing the water expenditures. Therefore, if public funds are accepted, money spent before formally declaring candidacy that assists the nomination or election to the office of governor will be included when calculating the expenditure limitation.	1992
10/13/1992	Meagher	DR		An OEF disbursement for cost-saving suggestion awards program is not permitted.	1992
10/1/1992		AG		AO 1993-9 Federal law preempts state law regarding party building funds.	1992
9/24/1992	Gromek	IS	3(4), 11(1), 21	The process proposed to be implemented by the Judges of the Michigan Court of Appeals may trigger registration and reporting provisions of the Act.	1992
7/27/1992	Holcomb-Merrill	IS	41(6), 54(1)	Corporation, trade associations, schools and other entities are precluded by section 41(6) and section 54(1) from paying additional salary or a reimbursement to an employee for a contribution made to influence the nomination or election of a candidate.	1992

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7/20/1992	Doster	IS	54(1)	Political parties may receive and spend money from corporations for activity which is exclusively outside the Act.	1992
7/15/1992	Cotter	IS	3(1), 4(1), 6(1)	The donation of money or services to a member of the Legislature to assist in the legislator's campaign for a leadership position within a legislative caucus is not a contribution or expenditure subject to the restrictions and reporting requirements of the Act.	1992
6/4/1992	Hall	IS	41(2), 47(1)	Merely asking another person to copy and pass along a leaflet does not constitute the acceptance or expenditure of an anonymous contribution and is not prescribed by the Act. However, violations of the Act could potentially occur if a person actually copies and distributes the leaflet.	1992
3/27/1992	Brackenridge	IS	47(1)	Fortune cookie messages measuring 1/2" by 2" are exempt from the identification requirements of section 47 of the Campaign Finance Act.	1992
2/13/1992	N/A	AG #6710	Title, 6(1)	The Michigan Campaign Finance Act applies to activities of a group with regard to the preparation, circulation and filing of a petition for detachment of an area from a city pursuant to sections 6 and 8 of the Home Rule Cities Act. A municipality may expend public funds to finance the preparation, circulation and filing of a petition seeking an election for detachment of an area from a city pursuant to sections 6 and 8 of the Home Rules Cities Act. However, once the issue has been placed on the ballot, a municipality may not use public funds to influence the electorate in support of or in opposition to a proposal that is put on the ballot as a result of the petitions being filed. (Title)	AG Opinion #6710
12/20/1991	O'Neil	IS	6(1), 49, R46(2)	The Act does not permit an elected official to pay apportionment expenses from his or her candidate committee. An expense related to the apportionment of county commissioner districts is not an expense traditionally associated with, or necessitated by' the office. Apportionment related legal fees also do not fall within any of the categories described in rule 62(1). Therefore an OEF may not be used to pay legal fees and court costs incurred to review an apportionment plan [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1991
10/22/1991	N/A	AG #6704	Title, 5(1)	A municipality may not use its funds for the purpose of paying expenses incurred by city commissioners in the defense of a recall petition arising out of their performance of their duties as elected officials. (Section 5(1))	AG Opinion #6704
5/23/1991	Ritter	DR	6(3)	Section 6(3)(b) must be interpreted to mean that the Act does not apply to a communication on a subject or issue unless the communication, when read as a whole, unambiguously presents a distinct plea for a specific action with respect to a clearly identified candidate or ballot question. If the Act does apply, the payment of the cost of such communication qualifies as reportable expenditures under the Act.	1991
4/9/1991	Peters	DR	5(2)	A review of the Act and rules suggests that funds that are returned to a committee after the committee has dissolved must be reported and disposed of in the same manner as if the committee remained in existence.	1991
10/8/1990	Jacobs	IS	3(1), 20, 44(2)	A person running for either governor or lieutenant governor as a write-in candidate is required to file a Statement of Organization when he or she receives a contribution, makes an expenditure or allows another person to do so on their behalf. Write-in candidates for the office of governor and lieutenant governor must form separate candidate	1990

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				committees; however, expenditures supporting both members of the write-in team may be made from either candidate committees.	
8/13/1990	Older	IS	47(1)	A wooden nickel which is the approximate size of a five cent coin is exempt from the reporting requirement of Section 47.	1990
7/17/1990	Anglin	IS	54(1)	The Act does not prohibit a corporation from purchasing advertising from the same company which produces and distributes campaign advertising for a candidate committee, provided the advertisements are purchased at fair market value.	1990
7/17/1990	Wilson	IS	47(1)	A 2" x 6" paper bookmark is not exempt from the requirements of Section 47.	1990
6/14/1990	Kreuger	IS	4(1), 9(2)	The loan of a bulk mailing permit to a committee is an in-kind contribution, and governmental entities are generally without authority to make contributions or expenditures in a candidate or ballot question election.	1990
6/14/1990	Gromek	IS	3(4), 44	If a group of individuals contribute to a joint account for the purpose of making expenditures or purchasing fund raiser tickets to support or oppose candidates, the group must file a Statement of Organization within 10 days after receiving or spending \$500.00 in a calendar year. This requirement cannot be avoided by establishing an account in the name of the person responsible for administering the account or by attributing subsequent expenditures from the account to one of the original contributors. If an individual contributes to the joint account with the agreement or arrangement that the contribution will be transferred to a particular candidate committee, a violation of section 44(1) may occur.	1990
4/20/1990	Alan	IS	47(1)	A candy wrapper no larger than 1 1/2" by 2 1/2" is exempt from the reporting requirements of Section 47.	1990
8/24/1989	Castillo	IS		Solicitation of attorney employed by an incorporated law firm for contributions to the corporation's separate segregated fund (SSF).	1989
8/24/1989	Castillo	IS	55(1), 55(2)	A reverse check-off plan that limits the refund of contributions to the two previous deductions may not adequately protect employees from engaging in unwanted political activity. An attorney employed by an incorporated law firm to engage in the practice of law is an employee who has professional responsibilities within the meaning of Section 55(2) (c). As such, the attorney may be solicited for contributions to the corporation's separate segregated fund (SSF).	1989
6/29/1989	N/A	AG #6591	6(3), 49(1)	Moneys in an officeholder's expense fund may not be used to pay legal and other expenses incurred in connection with the circulation and filing of recall petitions, the clarity hearing relating to the recall petition, or the recall election of the officeholder.	AG Opinion #6591
6/15/1989	Gerschbacher	IS	54	A corporation may not pay the administrative costs of an Independent or Political Committee unless the committee is also a separate segregated fund of that corporation. A corporation may not pay the administrative costs of a separate segregated fund established by another corporation or of a committee that is not a separate segregated fund.	1989
4/25/1989	Pedersen	IS	47(1)	The identification requirement is not waived for 12 inch paper rulers. Since the item is printed on paper, the identification may be printed on an item of that size.	1989
3/31/1989	Freels	IS	22, 24(1)	The only committee officer required by the Act is a treasurer. None of the language in the Act or the promulgated rules	

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				imposes a requirement that an organization name any particular person to be the treasurer of a Ballot Question Committee established by an organization.	1989
1/23/1989	Markes	IS	55(2)	Ed PAC may solicit employees who are enrolled in the Employee Savings Plan if their company matching contributions and related earnings in Detroit Edison Common Stock are fully vested.	1989
10/28/1988	Dunne	IS	49(1)	An OEF may be used to pay legal expenses incidental to the office held by the official. An OEF may not be used to pay legal fees in a legal action taken for personal money damages. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1988
10/19/1988	Giese	IS	47(2)	A committee which has filed an amendment to its Statement of Organization to show a committee change of address is not required to note the change of address on printed matter it has previously purchased as long as the printed matter contains an identification statement that was correct at the time the printed matter was purchased.	1988
10/10/1988	Monaghan	IS	47(1)	Jar lid "grippers" (used to assist in removing jar lids) which are 5 inches or less in diameter are exempt from the identification requirement found under Section 47 of the Campaign Finance Act.	1988
9/28/1988	N/A	AG #6541	2(2), 34	The filing and reporting requirements of the Campaign Financing and Practices Act, 1976 P.A. 388, do not apply to churches and church organizations which permit proponents of a ballot question to gather petition signatures or proponents or opponents of a ballot question to solicit and receive contributions during religious services or meetings of church members.	AG Opinion #6541
8/31/1988	Price	IS	54(4), 55	There is nothing in Section 54 or Section 55 that prevents MEA from using its dues money to make a contribution or expenditure to a Ballot Question Committee. The extent to which members may be constitutionally protected from their union's expression of political views is outside the authority of the Compliance and Rules Division to determine.	1988
8/8/1988	N/A	AG #6531	Title	School districts or community college districts may expend public funds to inform their electors in a fair and objective manner of the facts surrounding an upcoming ballot proposal or proposals to be voted upon by the school district or community college district electors. A voluntary unincorporated association receiving contributions and making expenditures advocate for or against a ballot proposal is subject to the filing requirements of the Act and may be subject to imposition of fines for violating the Act.	AG Opinion# 6531
7/28/1988	Jordan	IS	26	An in-kind contribution must be reported at its fair market value and cannot be assigned an arbitrary nominal cost.	1988
6/22/1988	Irvine	IS	47(1)	Because of the size and difficulty in printing the disclosure on the item, refrigerator magnets are exempt from the identification requirement. The materials used in business cards make it possible to include the required identification on the cards; therefore, the identification must be included on business cards or business card-sized pieces of campaign literature.	1988
6/15/1988	Miller	IS	2(2), 3(4)	A separate segregated fund may not make contributions to Political and Independent Committees which are separate segregated funds. If Michigan Republican Conservative Committee (MRCC) donates funds to a "Political Action Committee" which is a committee under the Act, the donation	1988

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				is a contribution or expenditure and is governed by the Act's requirements. If MRCC's contributions to other committees total \$200.00 or more in a calendar year, MRCC is itself required to register as a Political Committee and is subject to the Act's restrictions. [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	
1/6/1988	Turner	IS	55(3)	A corporate member of a nonprofit corporation may institute a voluntary payroll deduction plan if: 1) the plan is limited to employees who have policy making, managerial, professional, supervisory or administrative non-clerical responsibilities 2) contributions collected through the plan are not obtained by threat, force or coercion or as a condition of employment and 3) use of the corporate member's facilities and personnel to collect and transmit contributions to the separate segregated fund has no ascertainable monetary value and does not result in a contribution to a separate segregated fund by the corporate member. These determinations can only be made on a case-by-case basis.	1988
12/15/1987	Rice	IS	R6	An "interested person" may request a ruling under the Campaign Finance Act "as to an actual statement of facts." Declaratory Ruling request related to the "On the Job" committee is denied on this basis.	1987
12/14/1987	Hubka	IS	15(1)	The Freedom of Information Act provides that a public body may exempt from disclosure investigating records compiled for law enforcement purposes. Therefore, the Department does not disclose information secured during the course of investigating an alleged violation of the Campaign Finance Act until after the investigation is completed.	1987
11/16/1987	Shields	DR	55(1)	The Corporate Executive Guaranteed Contribution System (reverse check-off) proposed by Marketing Resource Group, Inc. does not appear to violate the Act if conditions in the proposal are strictly adhered to.	1987
9/8/1987	Short	IS	49	Funds remaining in an officeholder's OEF may be used to pay office related debts if the debts were incurred prior to the date on which the officeholder left office. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1987
8/4/1987	McNenly	DR	55, 55(1)	The reverse check-off procedure for collecting contributions proposed by the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Education Association Political Action Council does not violate the Campaign Finance Act.	1987
8/4/1987	Cleveland	IS	55(3)	A nonprofit corporation, consisting of a group of corporations, may establish a separate segregated fund for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates and ballot questions. However, the member corporations may not contribute to the fund since the Act only allows contributions from members who are individuals. The SSF of a corporate member of the nonprofit corporation is prohibited from contributing to the committee established by the nonprofit corporation.	1987
7/1/1987	Sederburg	IS	49	If an officeholder's spouse performs little or no office related services when traveling with the official, the spouse's traveling expenses may not be paid by the official's OEF. However, if the spouse's presence has a bona fide business or office related purpose, his or her travel expenses may be paid or reimbursed by the official's OEF.) [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1987
6/16/1987	N/A	AG #6447	49(1)	The Campaign Finance Act limits officeholder expense fund (OEF) disbursements to "expenses incidental to a person's office" and is silent on how to dispose of funds upon leaving	AG Opinion

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				office. Rules adopted by the Secretary of State require OEF monies to be kept in a financial institution. The Michigan Code of Escheat is applicable to funds maintained in a financial institution.	#6447
5/26/1987	Russell	IS	47(1)	Sweatshirts and t-shirts involved in the fact situation discussed in the ruling are exempt from the identification requirement of the Act. Under the fact situation involved, the sweatshirt and t-shirts will bear a message favoring a ballot question; the printer has advised that the identification language would have to be 36 point type to be readable; and the identification would take a minimum of three lines of type if it were in 36 point type.	1987
5/26/1987	Brackenrich	IS	21(3), 49, R1(1)	The funds of a Candidate Committee or an OEF may be invested in certificates of deposit. The funds of a Candidate Committee or OEF may not be invested in bonds, mutual funds or land contracts. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1987
4/17/1987	Markes	IS	54(1), 55	A corporation may make a donation from its treasury funds to a 501(c) (3) charity to match the amount that an individual has contributed to the corporation's separate segregated fund. While the contributor to the separate segregated fund may designate the 501(c) (3) charity to receive the donation from the corporation, the contributor to the separate segregated fund may not receive any tax benefit from the corporation's charitable donation. The contributions involved must be received from individuals who can be solicited for the fund and cannot be obtained by threat, force and coercion or as a condition of employment.	1987
3/17/1987	Brown	IS	28(2), 49	A Candidate Committee may not make personal or business loans to the candidate or any other person. Funds held in a Candidate Committee account or an OEF may not be loaned to any person including the candidate or officeholder who established the accounts. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1987
2/24/1987	N/A	AG #6423	Title	A school district or community college district may not provide public funds, public property, or the services of public personnel to independent political ballot or candidate committees. The legislature has not enacted legislation authorizing the removal from office of either a member of a board of education of a school district or a member of a community college board of trustees. Taxpayers may commence a lawsuit to enjoin the unlawful expenditure of public funds for political purposes by a school district or a community college district.	AG Opinion #6423
2/23/1987	McLellan	IS	49, 52	Dissolution of an OEF is accomplished by disposing of the OEF's assets, paying outstanding debts, and filing a dissolution statement. [A public official may transfer any unexpended money from one officeholder's expense fund to another officeholder's expense fund held by the same public official pursuant to the provisions of section 45(1) of the act, General Rules, effective July 1, 1989.][OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1987
2/20/1987	Smith	IS	54(2)	In order to be deemed a corporation "formed for political purposes" under tie Act, such corporation must be formed solely for political purposes and must be incorporated for liability purposes only, as shown not only by its articles of incorporation or by-laws, but also by the manner in which it conducts its operations.	1987
1/20/1987	Correll	IS	6(3), 8(2), 26	Expenditures for general activities whose purpose is to solicit contributions to an Independent Committee are not subject to	

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				the Act's specific reporting requirements. Consequently, only those expenditures that are incident to a particular fund raising event must be reported in the detail required by Section 26. An Independent Committee may report its total fund raising expenditures for the reporting period in question as a single item in campaign statements.	1987
1/20/1987	Thodis	DR	3(4), 7(4), 54, 54(2), 55	Corporate contributions may not be solicited or accepted at a fund raiser which is cosponsored by a committee under the Act. An unincorporated association funded by corporate dollars may not pay the administrative and solicitation expenses of an Independent Committee. Such costs must be paid from a fund that is not tainted by corporate dollars. If an unincorporated association is funded by corporate dollars, the association may not pay the administrative and solicitation costs of an Independent Committee. Any administrative and solicitation expenditures the association makes for the committee must be made from an account which is not tainted by corporate money. A corporation which pays the administrative and solicitation costs of its separate segregated fund does not itself become a committee. [Changed by P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989 which permits acceptance of corporate money at a fund raiser cosponsored by the Candidate Committee and that public official's OEF, Section 44(4).][OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994].	1987
10/22/1986	Engler	IS	Title	Applicability of Act to joint fund raisers.	1986
10/7/1986	Engler	IS	Title	Applicability of Act to non-campaign meetings and forums.	1986
7/23/1986	Cherry	IS	26	A candidate for State Representative who becomes a candidate for State Senator must file detailed statements for both committees concerning a fund raiser which was held before the change of office being sought. The statements must report the expenditures made by each of the committees for the fundraiser and any debts assumed by the second committee in connection with the fundraiser.	1986
7/21/1986	Perrone	DR	67(1), R39(A)	Payments made by the Lucas for Governor Committee for security services on campaign trips that are necessitated by security requirements established by Wayne County do not count toward the \$1,000,000.00 expenditure limit imposed on Gubernatorial candidates who accept public funding. Such payments are excluded from the expenditure limitation pursuant to Rule 39a.) [Gubernatorial candidate committee expenditure limit change to \$1.5 million, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1986
7/18/1986	Kelman	IS	45, 49(1)	An elected public official is prohibited from using an OEF for his or her personal benefit while in office. The Act prohibits an elected official from converting unexpended OEF funds to his or her personal use upon leaving office. Similarly, if an officeholder should die while in office, money held in an OEF cannot be considered part of the officeholder's personal estate. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1986
7/15/1986	Hodge	IS	49	Funds may be transferred from the Candidate Committee to the OEF; they may not go the other direction; therefore it is impermissible for a Candidate Committee to make a loan to that candidate's OEF. The OEF may not purchase a service or asset from the Candidate Committee because that is not an arm's length transaction and the OEF could use that mechanism to transfer funds to the committee. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1986
7/15/1986	Connate	IS	9(3)	An officeholder's Candidate Committee cannot lend funds to	1986

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				the officeholder's OEF. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	
5/19/1986	McLellan	IS	54(2)	A multipurpose corporation does not qualify as a corporation formed for political purposes under the Act. The organization must be in its entirety a committee under the Act.	1986
2/6/1986	Bertler	IS	16(3)	The prohibitions of Section 16(3) apply to activities which are carried on for profit. A non-profit organization may, therefore, use lists gleaned from statements filed pursuant to the Act for solicitation it conducts but must confine its use to non-commercial purposes and may not sell or loan the data to another organization which intends to use the information in a commercial endeavor.	1986
11/1/1985	Sparks	IS	7(4), 55(1)	Payments of costs associated with a raffle are not establishment or administrative expenses. Therefore, a corporation can only pay raffle costs which are expenditures for solicitation of contributions to its separate segregated fund.	1985
10/22/1985	McLellan	IS	54(2)	In order to be deemed a corporation "formed for political purposes" under the Act, a corporation must be formed solely for political purposes and must be incorporated for liability purposes only, as shown not only by its articles of incorporation or bylaws, but also by the manner in which the corporate enterprise is conducted.	1985
10/21/1985	Thodis	DR	8(2)	An Independent Committee that is not a separate segregated fund may solicit and accept contributions from separate segregated funds that are registered as Political or Independent Committees. A committee sponsored by an unincorporated association is not a separate segregated fund. Therefore, the committee may solicit and accept contributions from separate segregated funds registered as Political and Independent Committees.	1985
10/4/1985	LaBrant	DR	55(1)	A corporation, in the course of soliciting donations to its separate segregated fund, may purchase lapel pins costing no more than \$5.00 each for contributors giving \$200.00 or more to the fund.	1985
4/12/1985	Lehto	IS	47(2)	The identification requirements of the Act do not apply to video tapes produced by political candidates and cable cast on a public access channel if use of the public access video taping equipment and the public access time is free. The identification requirement only applies to paid political advertisements.	1985
11/29/1984	Whitefield	IS	55(1)	Corporate funds may not be used to defray the costs associated with a fund raising raffle or dinner for a separate segregated fund.	1984
11/2/1984	Kelly	IS	49	There are only two methods to purge the "taint" placed on an OEF after corporate donations are accepted. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1984
10/31/1984	Lambert	IS	6(1), 54(1), 54(2)	Legal or accounting expenses of a Political Party Committee associated with the Campaign Finance Act are expenditures that cannot be paid with corporate funds. Corporate funds may be used for office supplies, equipment, utilities and expenses of a political party if they are used solely for non-campaign purposes. These donations are not reportable under the Act and may not be commingled with reportable contributions. Membership records of a political party cannot be paid with corporate funds.	1984
10/31/1984	Van Dam	IS	6(1), 6(3), 11(4), 11(5),	Membership records of a political party may be used for non-campaign purposes, but they are also maintained and utilized to influence elections. Therefore, expenditures to maintain	

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			25(1), 54(2)	membership records cannot be paid with corporate funds. Payments to auditors, lawyers, accountants, etc., made for the purpose of compliance with the Act are expenditures and must be reported. A political party's expenditures made for materials and communications which do not support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue by name or clear inference are not reportable campaign expenditures and may be paid for with corporate money. Voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives held by a political party are intended to influence an election and, therefore, are reportable campaign expenditures. The principal purpose of a political party is to promote candidates and support or oppose ballot questions. A political party may form any type of committee except a Candidate Committee. For reporting purposes under the Act, there is no hiatus between campaigns. Especially for a political party, an election marks the end of one campaign and the beginning of another. A fundraiser for a political party may not be split between campaign and non-campaign purposes with corporate contributions received and channeled to non-campaign purposes.	1984
10/12/1984	Schneider	IS	54(1), 55(1)	A corporation may not pay taxes assessed on interest earned by its separate segregated fund. The payment of taxes upon income of a corporate separate segregated fund earned by placement of the fund's monies in an interest bearing account or certificates of deposit are not "administration" expenses and, therefore, may not be paid with corporate funds.	1984
10/4/1984	Schick	IS	54(1), 55(1)	The purchase of entertainment, premiums, and raffle prizes with corporate funds for a fund raising event held by the corporation's separate segregated fund would constitute prohibited corporate contributions. The predominate element of "solicitation of contributions" is communication. The purchase of entertainment, premiums, and raffle prizes for a fund raising event held by a separate segregated fund lies beyond the scope of "solicitation of contributions." Therefore, the use of corporate funds is not permitted for such purchases.	1984
7/11/1984	Welborn	IS	3(4), 4(2), 6(1), 52, 54(1)	A charitable organization which holds fund raising events in conjunction with a Candidate Committee and which pays more than its proportional share of the costs of the event will become a "committee," subject to the reporting requirements of the Act, if the amount that the charitable organization pays exceeds its proportional share by \$200.00 or more. "Contribution" includes the proceeds of a golf outing sponsored by a Candidate A charitable organization which is incorporated and which holds a joint fund raising event in conjunction with a Candidate Committee is prohibited from paying more than its proportional share of the costs of the fund raising event, since any excess would constitute a corporate contribution. [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1984
2/13/1984	McLellan	IS	49	Legal Expenditures from Candidate Committee and OEF.	1984
1/24/1984	Saltzman	IS	6(3)	A disbursement made to prepare and distribute a document which does not support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue either directly or by clear inference does not constitute an expenditure. This disbursement in itself will not make it necessary for the person(s) involved to register as a committee.	1984
1/24/1984	Clarkson	DR	3(1), 6(1),	A person who makes expenditures in order to determine	

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			47(1)	whether or not to seek office is nonetheless a "candidate". Literature, which is distributed to determine whether or not a person should seek office, is subject to the identification requirements. (Testing the Waters)	1984
1/3/1984	Patterson	DR	52	Contributors to a Candidate Committee of a candidate who is involved in a Recall Election are not subject to the contribution limits, since to do so "would treat contributors to the proponents of a recall differently than contributors to the committee of the state official who is the subject of the recall."	1984
12/14/1983	Rapp	IS	3(1), 24(1), 36(1)	The candidate's county of residence is irrelevant as to when a person becomes a candidate. A candidate who runs for office in one county while residing in another county, and who subsequently moves to the county where he or she is seeking office, must file an amended Statement of Organization indicating the change with the county clerk of the candidate's new county of residence.	1983
12/7/1983	Weigand	IS	47(1)	Aerial banners towed by an airplane are exempt from the identification requirements.	1983
10/26/1983	Downs	IS	49(1)	An officeholder may use funds in his or her OEF to purchase advertising space in a program book for a political party fund raiser as long as the advertisement does not urge the re-nomination or reelection of the officeholder paying for the space. If the advertisement furthers the nomination or election of the officeholder it must be paid for with funds held in the officeholder's Candidate Committee account. An OEF may pay the additional tax liabilities of the officeholder necessitated by the creation of the OEF. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1983
10/26/1983	Schwartz	IS	49(1)	OEF may not make a mass transference of the proceeds of a joint fund raiser to a Political Party Committee, since this would probably not be an "expense incidental to the office." [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1983
10/26/1983	Duff	DR	3(4), 55	A joint Michigan/Federal political action committee may operate under the Act. The committee must have a single Michigan depository and a treasurer who is a qualified Michigan elector. [Michigan treasurer and Michigan bank account are no longer required if the committee does not conduct business from an office or facility located in Michigan. Must file stipulation. Section 44(4) P.A. 95 effective June 21, 1989.]	1983
10/26/1983	LaBrant	DR	3(4), 42(2)	An out-of-state political action committee which (1) is registered with the Federal Election Commission and (2) does not solicit or accept contributions from persons other than those specified in Sections 55(2) or 55(3) of the Act may transfer funds to an affiliated committee which has a Michigan depository and treasurer and makes expenditures in Michigan elections. All applicable reporting requirements must be followed. [Michigan treasurer and Michigan bank account are no longer required if the committee does not conduct business from an office or facility located in Michigan. Must file stipulation. Section 44(4) P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1983
10/26/1983	Barrett	DR	55	A corporation that has a separate segregated fund may pay for the cost of office space, phones, salaries, utilities, supplies, legal and accounting fees, and other expenses with respect to setting up and running the SSF. The travel expenses of the officers or directors of a SSF established by a trade association may be paid by the officer or director's corporation or by the trade association which established the	1983

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				SSF. A corporation that is a member of a non-profit corporation that has a SSF may permit "occasional, isolated, or incidental use of corporate facilities or personnel" for purposes of the establishment, administration, or solicitation of contributions for the SSF, not to exceed one hour per week or four hours per month.	
10/14/1983	Wilbur (Sederburg)	DR	6(1), 49(1)	A Candidate Committee can use its funds to purchase a computer, provided that the computer is used solely to further the candidate's nomination or election or is used for "expenses incidental to holding office" if the candidate is also an officeholder. An OEF may not purchase assets or services from the officeholder's Candidate Committee: [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1983
10/7/1983	Faust	IS	5(2), 52(1)	"Elective office" does not include an office involved in a Recall Election, since the office is not being "filled by an election." Therefore, contribution limits do not apply to an officeholder who is being recalled, provided the contributions are designated for a recall election.	1983
9/21/1983	Lambert	IS	6(1), 52	"[In assistance of" ... the nomination or election of a candidate has a much broader meaning than "directly related" to the nomination or election of a candidate. Consequently, advertising purchased in a program book, ad book, or newspaper published by a Political Party Committee and which promotes a candidate is an "expenditure." A corporation may not purchase advertising in a program book, ad book, or newsletter published by a Political Party Committee unless it does not support or give assistance to a candidate.	1983
6/20/1983	Padzieski	IS	Title	A political subdivision or governmental agency is not subject to the Act, and may not, directly or indirectly, make contributions or expenditures pursuant to the Act.	1983
6/13/1983	Collins	IS	3(4), 54(2)	A company that donates billboard space (value in excess of \$200.00) to a Ballot Question Committee "as a public service" is a "committee." The test for determining whether an expenditure is "for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of voters" is not solely the subjective intent of the person making the expenditure, but rather also the extent to which the expenditure is actually used to influence the voters. [A corporation will not become a committee if it makes either direct or in-kind expenditures and if it does not solicit or receive contributions P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1983
6/3/1983	Ritter and McHugh	IS	66(1), 66(3)	A Gubernatorial Candidate Committee's private funds account may not be used to pay a committee debt with the Intent that when public funds are received the private funds account will be reimbursed.	1983
4/8/1983	Plawecki	IS	44(2)	A loan is a "contribution" and, therefore, may not be made between two Candidate Committees, even when both committees are Candidate Committees held by the same individual. Any left over funds or funds, which are not consumed or used up by the candidate's first committee, may be transferred to his or her second committee when the second committee has a higher contribution limit. These transfers are not contributions. In addition, since a loan is a contribution, candidate committee to candidate committee loans are prohibited. If a candidate has transferred left over funds or funds which were not consumed or used up by the candidate's first committee to his or her second committee, it would be inconsistent to allow any funds to be returned to the	1983

DATE	TO WHOM	TYPE OF RULING	SECTION OF LAW	SYNOPSIS/SUMMARY	FULL TEXT (SEARCH BY YEAR)
				dissolving committee.	
3/4/1983	Suvu	IS	2(2)	A group of persons which is circulating petitions to be submitted to a City Commission in order to have a ballot issue placed on the ballot becomes a Ballot Question Committee when it spends or receives \$200.00 in a calendar year, regardless of whether the issue is actually placed on the ballot. [Changed to \$500.00 by P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1983
12/3/1982	Von Frank	IS	28(3), 42(2)	When providing the information required on the certified statement accompanying a contribution, an out-of-state committee may utilize the last-in-first-out (LIFO) method or may divide the expenditure by the number of persons contributing to the committee. An out-of-state committee that registers as a Michigan committee need not itemize all its receipts and expenditures on Campaign Statements. It must fully report all expenditures made to Michigan candidates and ballot issues and report contributors to the extent their contribution was utilized in a Michigan election.	1982
12/3/1982	Huber	IS	9(1), 9(2)	A candidate or his committee would not be exercising direction or control over a Political Committee by making available to that committee copies of speeches, schedules or press releases as long as these items are available to the general public upon request. Expenses incurred in a joint fund raiser held by a Political Committee and a candidate committee may not be considered "independent expenditures." The distribution by a Political Committee of any material provided by a Candidate Committee is an in-kind contribution from the Political Committee to the Candidate Committee.	1982
11/15/1982	Hotchkiss	IS	12(1)	The Act does not specifically make contributions in the form of ticket purchases non-matchable for public funds.	1982
10/12/1982	Downs	IS	54	The purchase of advertising space in a newsletter published by a committee is a contribution to the committee. A corporation is, therefore, prohibited from purchasing such advertising space.	1982
7/26/1982	Wilson	IS	9(1)	With respect to the determination of whether an expenditure for communications between committees is an "independent expenditure", the critical factor is not the character of the communication (the Act does not regulate communications between committees), but rather whether a particular expenditure was made at the direction of, or under the control of, a particular person.	1982
6/3/1982	Heinen	IS	3(4), 8(2)	There is no provision of the Act which would preclude an Independent or Political Committee which is not a corporate separate segregated fund from contributing to both state and federal candidates.	1982
4/26/1982	Buth	IS	49(2)	The contribution limits for an OEF are the same as those for the officeholder's Candidate Committee, and are determined on a per-election basis, and not on a calendar year basis. However, the contribution limits for the OEF and the Candidate Committee are separate, and a contributor's total contributions to one entity will have no effect upon the contributor's contributions total to the other. [The basis for contribution limits has been changed to "election cycle" rather than "per-election", P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.][OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1982
4/12/1982	VanDam	IS	6(1), 11(5), 54	A disbursement made by a Political Party Committee to influence the Apportionment Commission, the Supreme Court,	1982

DATE	TO WHOM	TYPE OF RULING	SECTION OF LAW	SYNOPSIS/SUMMARY	FULL TEXT (SEARCH BY YEAR)
				or other body with respect to Apportionment, while permissible, is not an expenditure, and is not subject to the Act.	
4/8/1982	Malett	IS	44(1)	A Federal Candidate Committee may hold a joint fund raiser with a Political Committee registered under the Act as long as the procedures for joint fund raisers are followed. The Political Committee must not, however, collect contributions from persons with the intent, agreement or arrangement that the money will be transferred to a particular Candidate Committee.	1982
3/31/1982	Welborn	IS	3(1), 3(4), 45(1)	A person may be a "candidate" for one seat while still an incumbent, and therefore, also a "candidate" for another seat. The Candidate Committee for the office for which the person is an incumbent must be maintained until the deadline for filing for reelection to the incumbent seat has passed. An officeholder may not dissolve his or her Candidate Committee for that office until becoming "constitutionally or legally barred from seeking reelection or fails to file for reelection to that office by the applicable filing deadline", even though the officeholder has announced his or her candidacy for another office. If a candidate simultaneously holds two Candidate Committees, and if one of the committees has a higher contribution limit than the other, and if funds are transferred from the committee having the lower limits to the committee having the higher limits, then the funds so transferred may not be transferred back.	1982
1/22/1982	Skiles	IS	54	A corporation that permits candidates to visit the company's plants is not making a corporate contribution, provided that the visits are equally available to all candidates for a particular office, and there is no communication by the corporation in support of or in opposition to a candidate.	1982
12/2/1981	Bailey	IS	6(1), 54	A radio program hosted by an elected public official does not constitute an "expenditure" by the radio station, nor by the commercial sponsors of the program, provided that the content of the program does not "support or oppose a ballot issue or candidate by name or clear inference", including the host candidate.	1981
12/2/1981	Kennedy	IS	3(1), 4(3), 35(2), 44(2)	A judge who becomes a candidate for another office and forms a new Candidate Committee for that office must file an Annual Campaign Statement for the second committee. An unopposed candidate who shares equally in a joint expenditure with an opposed candidate does not make a contribution to the opposed candidate in violation of Section 44. The opposed candidate may receive a greater benefit from the advertisement, but that benefit has no ascertainable monetary value and is, therefore, not a "contribution" under the Act.	1981
12/1/1981	VanHeest	IS	3(4)	The Candidate Committee of a candidate for federal office is not automatically required to comply with the registration and filing requirement of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Compliance may be required, however, if the federal candidate is also a candidate for state or local office or if the committee engages in finance activity within the purview of the Act. A contribution from a federal committee to a Political Party Committee that is clearly designated as being for other than campaign purposes does not constitute an "expenditure" and would not subject the federal committee to the reporting requirements of the Act.	1981

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11/10/1981	Pirich	IS	54	If a contribution is made from a partnership account, and if some of the partners are incorporated, then the contribution is permissible provided that it is attributed solely to unincorporated partners.	1981
11/3/1981	Perlow	IS	35(1), 82(2)	A person who contributed \$200.00 or more to a Ballot Question Committee before October 15, 1981, is immune from penalties or late filing fees incurred because of that contribution. A person who paid a late filing fee for such a contribution may apply for and obtain a refund. The language of Section 82 is to be construed to mean that persons entitled to refunds of late filing fees under the Section are persons who made contributions prior to July 1, 1981, and not as persons who paid late filing fees prior to July 1, 1981.	1981
11/3/1981	Schmoll	IS	15(1), 15(2)	The fact that failure to make a "technically required filing was unintentional" and that "the circumstances are somewhat unique and do not suggest negligence in the ordinary sense" does not constitute "good cause" for purposes of waiving late filing fees. Failure to file a required document is not a matter which can be conciliated, since Section 16 requires that persons who fail to file are to be referred to the Attorney General.	1981
10/28/1981	Reuther	IS	47, 47(1)	Printed material prepared and ordered by a Candidate Committee but paid for by a Political Action Committee is an in-kind contribution to the Candidate Committee. Printed materials having reference to an election, candidate or ballot question must have the name and address of the person paying for the materials on it. The political action committee must be identified on the material as the person paying for it. An Independent or Political Committee which pays the printing costs of campaign materials for a candidate must be identified on the materials paid for, even though the Candidate Committee has prepared, and distributes, the printed material.	1981
10/28/1981	Pitsch	IS	3(1), 45(2)	A Candidate Committee's unexpended funds may only be disposed of when the committee dissolves.	1981
10/23/1981	Ward	IS	3(4)	A contribution made to a committee is an expenditure by the contributor. A person other than an individual or a sole proprietorship making a contribution/expenditure of \$200.00 or more to influence an election is a committee [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1981
10/23/1981	Jenkins	IS	3(1), 3(4), 8(2), 11(2), 45(2)	A person becomes a "candidate" for purposes of the Act by raising money, even though the individual has not announced as a candidate, filed for office, campaigned, or otherwise become a candidate in the ordinary sense of the word. A committee that is not required to organize and file under the Act (i.e., does not spend or receive \$200.00 or more in a calendar year) is not prohibited from receiving funds. If a group of persons raises money to support the potential candidacy of a particular individual, and if the money is raised without that individual's consent, and if the money so raised is \$200.00 or more, then the group must register as a Political Committee. Committees other than Candidate Committees are not subject to Section 45(2), and may dispose of unexpended funds in any lawful manner. [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1981
10/23/1981	Faust	IS	7(4)	A joint rally is not a "fund raising event" so long as contributions are not "solicited or received by purchase of a ticket, payment of an attendance fee, donations or chances for prizes, or through purchase of goods or services."	

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				Expenses incurred from a joint rally which is not a fund raiser must be paid in a proportionate amount by all participant Candidate Committees. Prior to the event a written agreement should be made allocating the expenses. Expenses may be shared equally or allocated based on some other criteria which will insure that no Candidate Committee pays a disproportionate share of the expenses. One committee may pay all the expenses and then be reimbursed in accordance with the written agreement by the other committees. When reporting the event, each committee must itemize all expenditures they made for the event which total more than \$50.00.	1981
10/21/1981	Glomb	IS	4(2), 9(2), 26, 43, 54	The full price of an art object purchased at an art auction sponsored by a committee is a "contribution" from the purchaser, as is the purchase of admission tickets or attendance fees. An art auctioneer who conducts an auction on behalf of a committee makes an chant contribution to the extent that he provides admission tickets, advertising flyers, and posters without cost to the committee.	1981
10/12/1981	Sherman	IS	6(1)	A post-election thank-you dinner given soon after the election by a committee for the committee's staff is an "expenditure" and may be paid for with committee funds.	1981
10/12/1981	Titus	IS	3(1)	An appointed officeholder becomes a "candidate" when the appointment is accepted. The appointment is "accepted" when the officeholder is sworn into office. [An individual shall not be considered a candidate if the individual has been appointed to fill a vacancy in an elective office if the individual has not received a contribution or made an expenditure, Public Act 167, effective May 31, 1982.]	1981
9/28/1981	Black	IS	4(2), 7(4), 26	Any money received from the sale of merchandise at a garage sale sponsored by a committee is a "contribution", irrespective of the fair market value of the goods received by the purchaser. The person who contributes an item to a garage sale fund raiser and the person who purchases that item are both contributors.	1981
9/24/1981	Stabenow	IS	34(2)	A Post-Qualification Campaign Statement is not required to be filed with respect to a ballot question which automatically appears on the ballot pursuant to Article XII, Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, since such a ballot question does not require certification by the State Board of Canvassers.	1981
9/24/1981	Peterson	IS	3(1)	An individual does not become a candidate for purposes of the Act by merely circulating petitions.	1981
9/5/1981	Baker	IS	51	An individual who makes a speech in support of, or in opposition to, the passage of a ballot question, and subsequently incurs costs in excess of \$100.00 to have the speech printed and distributed, must file an Independent Expenditure Report.	1981
9/4/1981	Maynard	IS	Title	Funds appropriated to the State Central Political Party Committee by the legislature pursuant to 1981 P.A. 25, as funding for the Commission on Legislative Apportionment, and the deposit of such funds in a separate bank account, do not come within the purview of the Act.	1981
9/4/1981	Schwartz	IS	47(1)	An opinion poll which makes reference to an election, candidate, or ballot question must include the disclaimer and/or identification.	1981
9/4/1981	DeSana	IS	4(1), 21(3),	Interest earned on a credit union draft or share account is to	

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			28, 49, R1(1)	be reported as interest, and not as a contribution. Also, automatic transfers from a line of credit to the committee's draft account to cover an overdraft are to be treated as loans to the committee. A credit union is a "financial institution" within the meaning of the Act, and may serve as an official depository. Further, the use of a "draft" account, as opposed to a checking account, is permissible. An OEF may be used to purchase advertising in a testimonial book for a member of Congress, provided that the advertising does not advocate the nomination or election of the officeholder. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1981
9/3/1981	Turnquist	IS	66(3)	A candidate may apply public funds against qualified campaign expenditures that are defined as An expenditure for services, materials.... during the year in which the primary or general election in which the candidate seeks nomination or election is held. (emphasis added) Debts and obligations incurred by a gubernatorial candidate committee in the year(s) prior to the year of the election are, therefore, not subject to repayment with public funds as they would not be qualified campaign expenditures.	1981
4/29/1981	Galasso	IS	3(4), 41(6)	A partnership will not be a "committee" if a contribution of \$200.00 or more received from the partnership is accompanied by a written statement attributing the contribution to the individual partners [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1981
4/24/1981	Desana	IS	6(1), 44(2), 49(1)	The purchase of advertising in a testimonial book for a member of Congress which advocates the reelection of a state officeholder making the purchase is an "expenditure", which must be made from the officeholder's Candidate Committee. An officeholder may not use funds in his or her Candidate Committee account to pay for an ad in a book for a state or local official. An officeholder may charge his or her OEF for the purchase of a political party fund raising ticket. However, if the ticket is purchased for the purpose of influencing the officeholder's re-nomination or reelection, the expenditure must be made from the Officeholder's Candidate Committee account. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1981
4/22/1981	N/A	AG 5882	55(3)	The Michigan Municipal League, a nonprofit corporation, maybe subject to the requirements of 1976 P.A. 388, expends funds of the corporation in connection with the passage or defeat of a ballot question.	AG Opinion #5882
12/8/1980	Kelsey	DR	35(1)	Section 35 was amended, P.A. 215, effective July 18, 1980. This Act changes the closing date of the Annual Campaign Statement from June 20 to December 31 and the report filing due date from June 30 to January 31. This Act also provides for waiver of the Annual Campaign Statement if the committee has filed a Post Election Campaign Statement within 30 days of the December 31 closing date.	1980 (July – Dec)
12/3/1980	Hohendorf	IS	33(3)	A late filing fee is a debt owed to the state or county from the time it is due until it is actually paid. A late filing fee is like any other fee, fine, or tax that must be paid to a unit of government. It is the Department's view that a candidate, the committee, and the treasurer are all responsible for the late filing fees of the candidate's committee. The committee and the committee's treasurer are responsible for late filing fees assessed Independent, Political and Political Party Committees. [Candidates, committee treasurers and designated persons may be held responsible for paying late	1980 (July – Dec)

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				filing fees assessed the committee for late filing campaign statements, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	
10/29/1980	Schmucker	IS	54	A corporation which permits yard signs to be placed on its property may be making a prohibited in-kind contribution, since it is providing the use of its facilities. However, whether a contribution has been made will depend upon whether the use of the facilities has ascertainable monetary value, which in turn depends upon the facts in each individual case.	1980 (July – Dec)
10/29/1980	Davis	IS	15(1)	The Act does not give the Department of State any authority to reduce, waive or suspend late filing fees, even if meritorious defenses are presented. Accordingly, any late filing fee assessed by a filing official cannot be waived. [P.A. 465, effective January 17, 1981, established "good cause" reasons for waiver of late filing fees by filing official.]	1980 (July – Dec)
10/24/1980	N/A	AG #5804	54, 55	A parent corporation owning a subsidiary domestic insurance corporation doing business in Michigan may contribute to the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question under the provisions of Section 54 of the Campaign Finance Act, and may establish a separate, segregated fund under the provisions of section 55 of the Campaign Finance Act, 1976 P.A. 388.	AG Opinion #5804
10/22/1980	Faust	IS	2(2)	The Act does not prohibit one Ballot Question Committee from contributing to another Ballot Question Committee. This is true even if the two committees support or oppose separate ballot questions.	1980 (July – Dec)
9/15/1980	Hancock	IS	3(1)	An individual does not become a "candidate" for purposes of the Act by being appointed by a village council to run for village office, pursuant to the village charter.	1980 (July – Dec)
9/4/1980	Raduaze	IS	54(2)	A municipal corporation is a "corporation formed for political purposes" and may, therefore, make contributions to Ballot Question Committees without regard to the \$40,000.00 contribution limit. However, a municipal corporation possesses only such powers as are granted to it by the State, and should be aware that there may be other constitutional or statutory prohibitions upon the use of public funds for political purposes.) [\$40,000.00 contribution limit declared unconstitutional, Michigan State Chamber of Commerce vs. Secretary of State, July 11, 1986.]	1980 (July – Dec)
9/4/1980	Nobes	IS	6(1)	Both payment of fees in lieu of nominating petitions and payment of late filing fees constitute "expenditures" and must be reported as such. [For an individual that has withdrawn within the time established by law, a payment of a filing fee shall not constitute an expenditure, P.A. 167, May 31, 1982.]	1980 (July – Dec)
8/6/1980	Deering	IS	3(2), 5(2), 6(1), 44(2), 45(1)	A "candidate committee" does not include a Federal Candidate Committee. A disbursement from a state Candidate Committee to a Federal Candidate Committee is not an "expenditure" and, therefore, may not be made by the State Candidate Committee. Joint fund raiser rules apply. However, the Federal Candidate Committee may contribute to the State Candidate Committee and may, therefore, pay more than its fair share of the joint expenses, or receive less than its fair share of the joint benefits, subject to the provisions of federal law. A Federal Candidate Committee that contributes to a State Candidate Committee is a "person" which is subject to contribution limitations.	1980 (July – Dec)
8/6/1980	Weiland	IS	4(2)	Purchase of advertising in a printed program book produced by a Candidate Committee in connection with a fund raiser constitutes a "contribution", therefore, sale of such advertising	1980 (July – Dec)

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				to a corporation is prohibited.	
8/6/1980	Kauflin	IS	41(1)	Two or more committees which are holding a joint fund raiser may not accept a cash contribution in excess of \$20.00, even though the pro-rata share of the contribution for each committee would be \$20.00 or less.	1980 (July – Dec)
8/6/1980	Nobes	IS	47	Any printed matter or advertising making reference to a "candidate" must include the identification and/or disclaimer.	1980 (July – Dec)
8/6/1980	Spaniola	IS	49	Distribution of highway maps produced by the Department of Transportation and bearing the insignia of a State Representative is an activity incidental to the holding of office, and the costs incurred may therefore be paid from an OEF. However, a service station that makes such maps available is not making an in-kind contribution to the OEF, since there is no ascertainable monetary value. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1980 (July – Dec)
8/5/1980	Younglove	DR	24(1)	The Campaign Finance Act does not give anybody, including the Secretary of State, the authority to forgive or cancel late filing fees regardless of the extenuating circumstances or good intentions on the part of the committee. Therefore, requests for forgiveness of fees cannot be complied with by the Department of State. [P.A. 465, effective January 17, 1981 established "good cause" reasons for waiver of late filing fees by filing officials.]	1980 (July – Dec)
8/5/1980	Dedenbach	IS	55(3)	For purposes of determining the "members" from whom a nonprofit corporation's separate segregated fund (SSF) may solicit contributions, the SSF must rely upon the definition of "member" in the corporation's bylaws, pursuant to Section 120 of the General Corporation Act (MCL 450.120).	1980 (July – Dec)
8/5/1980	Krueger	IS	16(6), 33(3), 34	The Department is not empowered to interpret the Act as assuming that late filed Campaign Statements which were received by the filing official on Monday were actually received on the prior Saturday. However, the filing official may make arrangements to have mail delivered to his or her office on Saturday. Campaign Statements present in a filing official's mail on the first Monday following a Friday filing deadline are considered to be three days late when late filing fees are calculated. If the filing official arranges to have mail delivered on the Saturday following the due date (Friday), reports received on Saturday are considered one day late when filing fees are calculated. [Late filing fees assessment for campaign statements for a Ballot Question Committee changed to business days, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989; all other campaign statements changed to business days effective January 1, 1990.]	1980 (July – Dec)
8/5/1980	Meisner	IS	12(1), 64(1)	Qualifying contributions from a joint account may be prorated if a document is submitted by the contributors bearing both signatures and stating their intent that the contributions be prorated.	1980 (July – Dec)
7/24/1980	Faust	IS	6(1), 49(1)	If an automobile is being used to influence the candidate's nomination or election, then the cost of leasing the vehicle may be paid from a candidate's campaign committee. An officeholder may use OEF funds to lease an automobile and pay maintenance expenses to the extent that the automobile is used for constituent or legislative business and the expense is not otherwise reimbursed. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1980 (July – Dec)
4/28/1980	N/A	AG #5695	Title, 2(2)	A provision in the Insurance Code of 1956 which prohibits contributions by insurers which would influence or effect the vote on a ballot question is unconstitutional.	AG Opinion #5695

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2/6/1980	Altman	IS	45(1)	An individual may transfer funds from the state elective committee to the local committee, but may not transfer funds from the local committee to the state elective committee. [Amended PA 590, 1996 to add contribution limits for all committees]	1980 (Jan – June)
2/6/1980	Butler	IS	3(4)	A "separate segregated fund" (SSF) is a committee.	1980 (Jan – June)
2/6/1980	Schneider	DR	4(3), 54, 55	The value of work performed by a member of an association for election purposes, and at the direction of the association, constitutes an in-kind contribution by the association. An incorporated labor union is subject to Section 55, regardless of the reasons for its incorporation.	1980 (Jan – June)
2/6/1980	Rice	IS	2(2), 6(3)	Repayment of a loan to a Candidate Committee by a Ballot Question Committee is not an "expenditure" and is permissible, provided that the original loan was reported as such by both committees.	1980 (Jan – June)
2/6/1980	Tuttle	IS	25(1)	A new committee is liable for filing the first Campaign Statement which has a closing date after the committee's date of formation.	1980 (Jan – June)
2/6/1980	Northrup	DR	24(4)	For purposes of future filings, a reporting waiver is lost whenever \$500.00 in receipts or expenditures is exceeded, and may only be regained by filing an amended Statement of Organization. An outstanding cash balance carried over from a previous election is considered to be a "receipt" for the succeeding election and, therefore, is applicable in determining if a committee has the reporting waiver. [The reporting waiver threshold was changed to \$1,000.00 by P.A. 138, effective October 22, 1985.]	1980 (Jan – June)
2/6/1980	Bartholomew	DR	4(1), 49, 66(3), R32, R46(2)	A negotiated settlement of less than the full value of the debt is a contribution if the settlement is not available to the general public. In order that the discounting or writing off of a debt is not made a contribution, the committee must receive prior approval from the Department of State. This approval will be granted only when the Department is convinced that certain conditions are met. A settlement approved by the Department is not made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate and is not, therefore, a contribution. As long as the settlement is not a contribution, it may be made with a corporate creditor. State Campaign Fund money may be used for the settlement(s) if proof is submitted that the debts are qualified expenditures. The McCullough-Michigan Committee (MMC) may apply money in its public funding account to retire primary debts that are qualified expenditures for the primary election. However, for the period subsequent to 60 days after the primary election, MMC must submit proof to the Department that the money being spent from the public funding account is directed to, and not in excess of, qualified campaign expenditures.	1980 (Jan – June)
2/1/1980	Welborn	IS	49	An OEF may not be used to pay for litigation seeking personal damages. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1980 (Jan – June)
2/1/1980	Corbin	IS	49	An OEF may accept corporate contributions, but once it does so it may not be used to support other candidates. A separate account may not be created to accept corporate contributions.[OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1980 (Jan – June)
1/29/1980	Overbeck	DR	3(4)	An out-of-state political action committee supporting candidates in Michigan is required to file a Statement of Organization and comply with the filing requirements of the Act once expenditures to support candidates in Michigan total	1980 (Jan – June)

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				\$200.00 or more in a calendar year. [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	
1/23/1980	Chymiclewski	IS	49	In order to use an OEF to pay membership dues or other organizational fees, it must be determined that joining the organization is incidental to the office held. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1980 (Jan – June)
12/28/1979	Cumbey	IS	52	An officeholder may not, under any circumstances, receive contributions in excess of the contribution limitations.	1979
12/28/1979	VanderKlok	IS	35(4)	A committee which has the reporting waiver must file an Annual Campaign Statement if the committee receives or expends more than \$500.00 in the time period between the closing date of the previously filed Post-Election Campaign Statement and the closing date of a subsequently required Annual Campaign Statement.) [The reporting waiver threshold was changed to \$1,000.00 and eliminated the requirement for committees with a reporting waiver to file the Post Election Campaign Statement, P.A. 138, effective October 22, 1985.]	1979
12/14/1979	Hazekamp	IS	3(1)	An individual becomes a candidate on the date he or she orders campaign materials.	1979
12/14/1979	Hancock	DR	3(1), 5(2)	A person who is appointed to an elective office always becomes a candidate for that office for purposes of the Act. [An individual shall not be considered a candidate if the individual has been appointed to fill a vacancy in an elective office if the individual has not received a contribution or made an expenditure, Public Act 167, effective May 31, 1982.]	1979
12/14/1979	Parish	IS	22	A committee treasurer has the responsibility for maintaining the committee's records, and the committee is responsible for ascertaining that the treasurer is meeting this requirement. If the committee's treasurer changes, then the new treasurer, the former treasurer, and the committee principals are collectively responsible for the transferal of the records. If the committee dissolves, then the last treasurer of the committee is responsible for the maintenance of the records. If that person is not available, then the responsibility revolves upon the committee's principals. [Provision for designation of individual other than treasurer to be responsible for record keeping, report preparation and report filing, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1979
12/14/1979	Brewer	IS	44(2), 47	Although a Candidate Committee may not support another Candidate Committee, a candidate, in his or her capacity as an individual, may support other candidates. [Amended to allow \$100 for Fund Raiser Tickets]	1979
11/28/1979	Hertel	AG		A commission or board may expend appropriate funds to inform the public of an objective manner on issues relevant to the function of the commission or board, it may not expend public funds to urge the electorate to support or oppose a particular candidate or ballot question.	1979
8/21/1979	Gelb	IS	44(1), 55(2)	Contributions made to an Independent or Political Committee may not be "earmarked" for particular candidates. Corporate PACs may not solicit contributions from employees of subsidiary corporations.	1979
8/21/1979	Dickey	DR	3(4), 5(1)	A public utility which pays for the expenses of a Special Election as mandated by law does not become a committee.	1979
8/21/1979	Perry	IS	54	An officer of a corporation, or of an incorporated trade association, may not engage in campaign activities in an official Capacity or while on corporate time.	1979

DATE	TO WHOM	TYPE OF RULING	SECTION OF LAW	SYNOPSIS/SUMMARY	FULL TEXT (SEARCH BY YEAR)
8/21/1979	Reis	IS	52(1)	A contribution not designated in writing for a particular election shall be considered made for the next election held (Primary Election, General Election, Caucus, Convention) if made on or before the date of the election. A contribution designated in writing for an election already held shall be made only to the extent that the contribution does not exceed net outstanding debts and obligations from the prior election. [Contributions are to be designated for "election cycle" rather than "per election." The election cycle definition includes a beginning period and ending day for a Special Election, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1979
8/21/1979	Kelsey	DR	54(1)	Equipment furnished to a candidate by a corporation for non-election purposes may not be used for campaign purposes.	1979
8/21/1979	McLellan	DR	6(1), 54, 54(1)	Expenditures made to influence a political convention in which no candidates are nominated are not subject to the reporting requirements of the Act.	1979
8/21/1979	Strom	IS	35(2)	A school board member who is paid on a per-meeting basis is still subject to filing an Annual Campaign Statement if the aggregate salary exceeds \$100.00 per month.	1979
8/21/1979	Grzywacz	IS	55(3)	Only non-profit corporations may receive contributions from members of the corporation, and the members must be individuals or their spouses, and not other corporations.	1979
8/21/1979	Farrell	IS	9(1)	An "independent expenditure" is an expenditure "not made with the cooperation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate or any agent or committee of such candidate."	1979
5/30/1979	O'Brien	IS	21(3), 28(2), R1(1)	Purchase of stock or commodities by a committee or by an OEF does not constitute establishment of a secondary depository and is prohibited. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1979
5/30/1979	Defebaugh	IS	32	A late contribution is any single contribution of \$200.00 or more received by a committee after the closing date of the Pre-Election Campaign Statement and more than 48 hours before 12:01 a.m. of the date of the election.	1979
5/30/1979	Lalonde	IS	26, 49	Payment of expenses incidental to holding office from the officeholder's personal funds is not subject to the reporting requirements.	1979
5/30/1979	Montgomery & Thodis	IS	2(2), 3(4), 54(2)	A corporation which contributes \$200.00 or more to a Ballot Question Committee becomes a committee for reporting purposes. [Changed to \$500.00 and committee definition changed by P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1979
5/30/1979	Thomas	IS	6(3), 21(4), 24(1)	Committee funds may be transferred to an interest bearing account without being an expenditure, but any interest earned must be reported. If a treasurer is unable to perform his or her requisite duties, a new treasurer may be appointed. Questions regarding the transfer of authority to make withdrawals from the committee's account should be addressed to the committee's bank or legal counsel.	1979
5/30/1979	Barker	DR	82(1)	Penalty provisions of the Act, including late filing fees, are not applicable to an Act or omission occurring before December 1, 1977.	1979
5/29/1979	Batchik	IS	54(1)	A food service corporation may not donate dinners to a Candidate Committee's fundraiser. A corporate employer may not compensate a volunteer working on a candidate's campaign.	1979
5/29/1979	Irwin	DR	6(1)	Payments of a candidate's personal living expenses during the campaign are legitimate campaign expenditures if it can be shown that the expenditures further the candidate's	1979

DATE	TO WHOM	TYPE OF RULING	SECTION OF LAW	SYNOPSIS/SUMMARY	FULL TEXT (SEARCH BY YEAR)
				nomination or election.	
5/29/1979	Johnson	IS	44(1)	A contribution to a corporate PAC may not be "earmarked" for a particular candidate.	1979
5/23/1979	Brown	IS	33(1), 35(1)	A committee may not establish its own schedule for filing Campaign Statements, but must file statements consistent with the schedule set forth in the Act. Annual Campaign Statements are due in June, regardless of the fact that committees may keep their records on a calendar year basis.[The due date for the Annual Campaign Statement changed to January 31, P.A. 215, effective July 18, 1980.]	1979
1/10/1979	Hood	IS		OEFs.	1979
1/10/1979	Culbert	DR	47(1)	Ice scrapers are exempt from the identification requirements.	1979
1/10/1979	Faxon	IS	4(2)	A waiver of service charge fees by a bank is not a contribution if it is available to the general public.	1979
12/29/1978	N/A	AG #5422	54(1)	A corporation may not contribute corporate funds to defray the expenses of conducting a recount.	AG Opinion #5422
11/9/1978	Wilson	DR	25(1), 33(1)	A Campaign Statement will never duplicate information found on another Campaign Statement; a Post-Election Campaign Statement will not necessarily follow a Pre-Election Campaign Statement for the same election if there is an intervening Campaign Statement due.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Davis	IS	24(1), 33, 34, 35(1)	Late filing fee assessments include weekends and holidays unless otherwise specified in the Act. [Changed to business days for campaign statements for Ballot Question Committees, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989; all other campaign statements changed to business days effective January 1, 1990.]	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Rose	IS	45(2)	A candidate may not retain a committee's assets for personal use after the election.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Riley	IS	3(1)	A minor party candidate who has not received contributions or made expenditures is not a candidate for reporting purposes if his or her party does not qualify for the ballot.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Justian	IS	3(4), 47(1), 51, 52	An individual, other than a candidate, can never be a committee. Nominating and ballot question petitions must have the full identification. Advertisements sold for the back of petitions must have identification. However, failure to have the identification does not invalidate the petitions. Independent expenditures by committees need only be reported on Campaign Statements. [Reporting requirements changed for independent expenditures made within 45 days before Special Election. These independent expenditures by Political and Independent Committees filed with the Secretary of State must be reported on a Special Election Independent Expenditure Report within 48 hours after they are made. P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Hawkins	IS	3(2), 21	A candidate is required to form a committee regardless of how much money he or she spends or receives.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Cisewski	IS	24(1)	A committee's name may be changed by filing an amended Statement of Organization. The new name must be used on political advertising from the effective date of the change. It is suggested that printed materials with the old name be rubber stamped with the new name.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Baumann	IS	55(3)	The proper contributors to a non-profit corporate PAC (SSF) are in addition to, and not in place of the proper contributors to other corporate PACS.	1978 (Oct – Dec)

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11/2/1978	Arthurhultz	IS	45(1), 52(1)	A candidate may not transfer funds from a Congressional Candidate Committee to his State Senate Committee because the contribution limits for the congressional office are greater than the limitation for the state office.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Altman	IS	35(1)	The first Annual Campaign Statement was due in June, 1978.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
11/2/1978	Boman	IS	24(1)	A reporting waiver may not be gained retroactively for the purpose of avoiding filing a prior Campaign Statement.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
10/10/1978	Allen	IS	6(1), 7(4), 45(1)	A debt incurred in one year may be paid in subsequent years. Interest incurred on a campaign debt is a legitimate campaign expenditure. The Department strongly encourages a statement of the purpose of a fund raising effort. Excess funds raised at a fund raiser may be used for another legitimate campaign purpose of the committee. A candidate may use funds from one committee to repay the debts of another committee if the requirements of section 45 are met.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
10/10/1978	Collins	DR	3(1)	A withdrawn candidate is still a candidate for the purposes of the Act [If a withdrawn candidate does not spend or receive any money he/she is not considered a candidate for purposes of the Act. Public Act 167, effective May 31, 1982.]	1978 (Oct – Dec)
10/10/1978	Luken	IS	12(1), 64(1), 67(2)	The Department requires that all written instruments contain the signature of the contributor, regardless of whether the contributors are from a joint or an individual account. The signature serves as evidence of an individual's intent to contribute to the particular committee. The Department will not accept the signature of one individual as reflecting the intent of another individual to make a contribution; notwithstanding the fact the two individuals are joint holders of an account and married. A separate document may be submitted, signed by both contributors, showing their intent. A Gubernatorial Candidate Committee must examine the content of the message as well as evaluating the audience to which the message is directed in determining if an expenditure qualifies for the 20% fund raising exclusion. [Expenditures made by the committee for the solicitation of contributions qualify for 20% fund raising exclusion, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (Oct – Dec)
10/10/1978	Bluhm	IS	3(4)	A group which does not spend or receive \$200.00 or more in a calendar year in order to influence the actions of voters is not a committee. [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (Oct – Dec)
10/9/1978	Hallenbeck	IS	55	A corporate PAC may use payroll deductions for receiving contributions.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
10/9/1978	Williams	IS	47(2)	Radio and television advertising need not have the full disclaimer or identification, but only the name of the person paying for it, and a one-line disclaimer, if applicable.	1978 (Oct – Dec)
9/29/1978	Ralls	DR	66(3)	A Gubernatorial Candidate Committee may receive Primary Election public funds through December 31 following the election, to the extent that it has qualified outstanding Primary Election debts.	1978 (July – Sept)
9/29/1978	Long	IS	66(3)	A Gubernatorial Candidate Committee may use General Election public funds to purchase assets from the Primary Election campaign, with the funds going into the account from which each asset was originally purchased.	1978 (July – Sept)
9/28/1978	McLaughlin	IS		Contribution limits for political party committees.	1978 (July – Sept)
9/27/1978	Smith	IS	55	It is possible that local bar associations may not be able to make contributions to the State Bar Association's political	

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				action committee (LAW-PAC). LAW-PAC is restricted by the Act as to its source of funds to those provided in Section 55(3) of the Act. To answer the question differently, the Department would need additional information.	1978 (July – Sept)
9/27/1978	Barrett	DR	55	A corporate PAC (SSF) is prohibited from contributing to another corporate PAC.	1978 (July – Sept)
9/20/1978	Hutson	IS	26, 44(2), 49(1)	Guidelines are offered to Candidate Committees for holding joint fund raisers. (This ruling does not include guidelines for holding joint fund raisers between the candidate committee and that officeholder's OEF.) [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (July – Sept)
8/14/1978	Geralds	IS	3(4)	A legal defense fund is not a committee unless its funds are used to influence an election.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/11/1978	Kelly	IS	24(1)	A Candidate Committee need not identify on the Statement of Organization the office sought by the candidate if it is not known at the time that the original Statement of Organization is filed, but must amend the Statement of Organization when the office sought is decided upon. A committee which is clearly functioning as a Candidate Committee cannot register as a Political Committee even though the office sought is not known.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/11/1978	Goemaere	DR	45	A Candidate Committee's unexpended funds may not be treated as personal income of the candidate upon dissolution of the committee.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/11/1978	Ferency	DR	28, 66(3)	Interest earned on public funds is not a contribution and must be reported as interest. Any interest earned on public funds must be returned to the state and may not be spent by the Candidate Committee.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/11/1978	Cartwright	DR	45	Disposal of unexpended funds of candidate committee	1978 (July – Sept)
8/11/1978	Brang	IS	23	Petty cash funds may not be used for the payment of wages. [A petty cash fund may be used for the payment of wages, amendment to the administrative rules, effective May 19, 1982.]	1978 (July – Sept)
8/11/1978	Penta	IS	36(1)	The Bureau of Elections is the only filing official within the Department of State.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/7/1978	Lukens	IS		Fund raising expenditure limitation for gubernatorial candidate receiving public funds	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Weidaw	IS	44(1)	Solicitation of a contribution to a candidate by a third party does not constitute a violation if the contribution is made directly to the candidate.) [An individual who obtains possession of a contribution that a committee registered under the Act wishes to give to another committee registered under the Act has 10 business days to deliver the contribution or return the contribution to the payer, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Geerlings Sheridan	IS	82(1)	Penalties, other than late filing fees, which were incurred between December 1, 1977 and May 16, 1978 were not affected by the amnesty amendment to the Act.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Swanton	IS	24(4), 33(2)	Primary, General, and other elections are separate elections for purposes of the reporting waiver. [The reporting waiver for Candidate and Ballot Question Committees is on a per election basis. The reporting waiver for all other committees is on a calendar year basis. P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Parker	IS	24(4)	For purposes of the reporting waiver, a single election includes School Elections held in two separate districts on the same date [The reporting waiver for Political and Independent	1978 (July – Sept)

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				Committees is on a calendar year basis, changed by P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	
8/1/1978	McLaughlin	IS	4(2), 21(8), 69	A loan made to an elected official does not constitute a contribution if it was not made for the purpose of influencing an election, or if it was exempted under Section 54. A State Central Political Party Committee may contribute \$250,000.00 per election to a Gubernatorial candidate who has accepted public funding, and District and County Political Party Committees may contribute \$10,000.00 per election. [Contribution limits changed to \$750,000.00 per election cycle for State Central Political Party Committees; \$30,000.00 per election cycle for each District and County Political Party Committee, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Hunt	IS	3(4)	A group that makes expenditures in support of action by the State Boundary Commission or in the State Legislature, and that action subsequently becomes the subject of a ballot proposal, becomes a committee when the action becomes a ballot proposal. [A corporation will not become a committee if it makes either direct or in-kind expenditures and if it does not solicit or receive contributions, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Hilligoss	IS	6(1)	"Campaign expenses" may be construed to mean those expenditures which are made for the purpose of influencing a particular election.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Hazel	IS	55	A corporation may have only one PAC, and it may not contribute to any other corporate PAC.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Gingrass	IS	7(4)	"Fund raising event" does not include events from which the proceeds are not used for influencing elections.	1978 (July – Sept)
8/1/1978	Spencer	IS	47(1)	Campaign stickers with dimensions of 2 3/4" x 1" are exempt from the identification requirements.	1978 (July – Sept)
7/20/1978	N/A	AG 5344	55	A "separate segregated fund" (SSF) established by a corporation pursuant to Section 55 of the Campaign Finance Act is a committee that is required to comply with the registration and reporting requirements of the Act. A SSF established by one corporation may not contribute to a SSF established by another corporation. A corporation may only establish one SFF.	AG Opinion #5344
7/7/1978	Wilson	IS	47(1)	12 inch wooden rulers are exempt from the identification requirements.	1978 (July – Sept)
7/7/1978	Everard	IS	47(1)	The following items are exempt from the requirements of Section 47: Frisbees and cloth pot holders. Political advertising cards which measure 3 3/4" by 1 1/4" in size are not exempt and must contain an identification.	1978 (July – Sept)
5/23/1978	Ferency	DR	Title, 71	Section 913 of P.A. 116 of 1954 prohibited the solicitation of political contributions on tax-exempt property. Section Repealed on June 1, 1977.	1978 (April – June)
4/7/1978	Wysznski	IS	21	An auxiliary account established for purposes of receiving credit card contributions is a legitimate secondary depository.	1978 (April – June)
4/6/1978	Harper	IS	55(2)	The only persons who may be solicited for contributions to the separate segregated fund are stockholders, officers and directors and eligible employees of the corporation that established the fund.	1978 (April – June)
4/6/1978	Binkowski	IS	47(1)	Small newspaper advertisements for a candidate (one column of newsprint wide x three lines of type), commonly run on the front page of a newspaper at the bottom of a column, are exempt from the normal identification requirements of the Act. However, the ad must contain an abbreviated identification as	1978 (April – June)

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				follows: Robert Jones; For City Council; Pd. By Cand. Com.	
4/6/1978	Bell	IS	3(4), 26	An organization which purchases tickets to fund raisers sponsored by state legislators' Candidate Committees is subject to the provisions of the Act once such expenditures total \$200.00 or more in a calendar year.[Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (April – June)
3/29/1978	Defebaugh	IS	8(2)	To function as an Independent Committee a group must meet all 3 requirements of Section 8 of the Act. Until the 3 requirements are met, the group would function as a Political Committee with respect to contribution limits.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/29/1978	Sage	IS	3(4)	Any Republican Women's Federation of Michigan organization that receives "contributions" or makes "expenditures" in the amount of \$200.00 or more in a calendar year to influence Michigan elections is subject to the provisions of the Act. Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/29/1978	McNeely	IS	47, 47(1)	Throwaway poll cards must bear the proper identification as required by the Act. If the cards were printed without the identifier, the necessary information may be placed on either side of the card with a stamp. Poll cards of 2 3/4" x 5 3/4" which are distributed on election day are not exempted from the identifier requirement.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/29/1978	Bartholomew	IS	66(1), 66(3)	The portion of any salary or wage to an individual in excess of \$2,000.00 per month is not a qualified campaign expenditure and, therefore, may not be made with public funds. Proceeds from the sale of equipment purchased with public funds must be returned to the public funds account. Retention of the equipment or proceeds from the sale of the equipment would violate the provisions of the Act. [Amount changed to \$5,000.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	1978 (Jan – March)
3/29/1978	Killeen	IS	33(1)	Campaign Statements are required in certain specific filing situations in 1978.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/24/1978	Coughlin	IS	44(1), 44(2), 49	"Support" of a candidate must have ascertainable monetary value. A Candidate Committee for one candidate may not support another candidate; however, an individual, even though a candidate, may make contributions to other candidates if he uses his or her personal funds. An OEF may be used to purchase tickets to fund raising affairs of other candidates. [An OEF may be used for the purchase of tickets to another committee's event if the OEF has not accepted corporate donations. General Rules effective July 1, 1989.][OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (Jan – March)
3/24/1978	Nobes	IS	3(1)	A person who makes expenditures for responding to an unfavorable editorial is not necessarily a candidate.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/24/1978	Holmes	IS	47(1)	Fund raising tickets (2 1/2" x 6") must contain an identification.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/24/1978	Copp	DR	6(3), 54(1)	"Expenditure" does not include: (1) communication on an issue if support or opposition to a ballot question is not indicated; (2) non-partisan voter registration; and (3) non-partisan get-out-the-vote activities. A donation by a corporation for a non-partisan activity does not constitute an illegal contribution, so long as the donor does not in any way influence the planning of the activity.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/24/1978	Arnold	IS	3(1)	The receipt of funds and the payment of debts with respect to an election which occurred prior to the effective date of the Act does not make a person a candidate.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/22/1978	N/A	AG #5279	55	A corporation is prohibited from establishing a political committee for the support of state candidates but may make	

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				expenditures for the establishment, administration and solicitation of contributions for a separate segregated fund (SSF). Contributions to a SSF may be in the form of a voluntary payroll deduction plan. Contributions may only be made by persons identified in section 55 of the Campaign Finance Act. Michigan law does not specifically prohibit a corporation from establishing a political committee to support federal candidates; a prohibition does exist by virtue of federal law.	AG Opinion #5279
3/21/1978	Corbin	IS	49	Funds may be transferred from a Candidate Committee to an OEF. An OEF may be used to purchase fund raising tickets from other candidates, and an OEF which is used to purchase fund raising tickets does not constitute a committee. [An OEF may be used for the purchase of tickets to another committee if it has not accepted corporate donations. General Rules effective July 1, 1989.][OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (Jan – March)
3/21/1978	Stopczynski	IS	6(1)	Payment of a scholarship by a Candidate Committee may be an expenditure.	1978 (Jan – March)
3/21/1978	Kammer	IS	49	An OEF may be used for establishing a district office, as long as that office is not used for campaign activities. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (Jan – March)
3/21/1978	Hood	IS	6(1), 49(1)	A Candidate Committee may sponsor a baseball team if it is deemed to further the nomination or election of the candidate. An Officeholder Expense Fund (OEF) may sponsor a baseball team if it is deemed to be an expense incidental to the office. A petty cash fund may be established from an OEF, but expenditures from it must be \$50.00 or less and it must be kept separate from a Candidate Committee's petty cash fund. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (Jan – March)
3/21/1978	Geake	IS	49	An OEF may be used to purchase fund raising tickets from other candidates. [An OEF may be used for the purchase of tickets for use to another committee's event if the OEF has not accepted corporate donations. General Rules effective July 1, 1989.][OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (Jan – March)
3/21/1978	Downs	IS	49	Contributions may be made specifically to either an OEF or to a Candidate Committee, but may not be combined; funds may be transferred from a Candidate Committee to an OEF, but may not be transferred from an OEF to a Candidate Committee. [OEFs abolished, PA 411, 1994]	1978 (Jan – March)
1/25/1978	N/A	AG 5258	26	The fact that proceeds from the sale of chances for prizes at a political fund-raising event must be reported does not have the effect of making it legal for political candidates to conduct a lottery.	1978 (Jan – March)
1/16/1978	McCullough	IS	4(1), 6(1), 12(1), 52(1), 64(1), 66(1), 69	A loan to a committee, other than a loan "in the ordinary course of business", is a contribution.	1978 (Jan – March)
12/29/1977	Ferency	IS	R6	An interested person whose course of action would be directly affected must request a Declaratory Ruling.	1977
11/10/1977	Killeen	IS	82(1)	Penalty provisions did not take effect until December 1, 1977, and are dated from that date.	1977
10/14/1977	Duff	DR	55	A national bank may form a PAC.	1977
9/13/1977	Ferency	DR	12(1), 64(1)	A written instrument, for purposes of being a "qualifying contribution" may be a document containing the names of the payer and the payee, the date, the amount, the purpose of the contribution, and the signature of the contributor.	1977

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9/12/1977	Allen	IS	5(1), 33(1)	A non-partisan candidate does not have to file Primary Election Campaign Statements if he is not on the ballot.	1977
9/8/1977	Boewe	IS	47(1)	An identification or disclaimer must: (1) appear on political material unless specifically exempted; (2) be distinguished from other information; (3) be printed legibly. An identification must contain the words "Paid for By" and the full name and address of the committee. A disclaimer must contain the words "Not authorized by the Candidate Committee for [Candidate's Name]." Stationery must have an identification or disclaimer whether it has a letterhead or not. Printed envelopes are exempted from the identification or disclaimer requirements.	1977
9/2/1977	Sawicki	IS	47(1)	The following items are exempt from the requirements of Section 47: ashtrays, brushes, badges and badge holders, bingo chips, combs, cigarette lighters, cups, clothing, clothes pins, coasters, earrings, emery boards, envelopes, erasers, golf tees, golf balls, drinking glasses, hats, horns, key rings, knives, lapel pins, labels, matchbooks, magnifying glasses, noisemakers, nail files, nail clippers, paper and plastic cups, plastic tableware, pendants, paper weights, pinwheels, pennants, pencils, pens, pocket protectors, ribbons, shoe horns, swizzle sticks, staple removers, sunglasses, sun visors, whistles, yo-yo's and 4" x 15" or smaller bumper stickers.	1977
9/2/1977	Dodge	IS	4(3), 9(1), 21(5), 24(1)	A candidate's travel expenses of less than \$250.00 are not a contribution. A candidate may not make an independent expenditure on his or her own behalf. A candidate's expenditure for postage would be an expenditure of his committee. A candidate's personal funds do not have to be transferred to his committee's account in order to make expenditures. A bank account does not have to be opened until a contribution is received or an expenditure is made. [Amount changed to \$500.00, P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989].	1977
9/2/1977	Damstra	DR	6(3), 24(1)	Committee funds may be transferred to an interest bearing account without being an expenditure, but any interest earned must be reported.	1977
8/16/1977	N/A	AG #5211	56	Although pursuant to its charter a city may enact an ordinance establishing campaign reporting requirements for candidates for a city office, the state campaign finance act provides that such an ordinance may not establish more restrictive reporting requirements than the provisions contained in the Act. A city may not enact an ordinance which establishes campaign expenditure limitations for candidate for a city office.	AG Opinion #5211
8/10/1977	Durak	IS	24(1)	A committee's depository must be reflected on the Statement of Organization even if no account is opened.	1977
8/9/1977	Walsh	IS	3(1), 3(4)	City charter commission members are candidates, even though the office is temporary.	1977
7/28/1977	Vogel	IS	3(1)	Public officials not normally elected in Primary, General, Special, or Millage Elections are not candidates.	1977
7/26/1977	Spaniola	IS	6(1)	An elected officeholder's Candidate Committee may pay the printing costs of tickets for a non-profit group that is holding a festival to fund local service projects.	1977
7/26/1977	Killeen	IS	16(6), 16(9)	A filing official must mail Notices of Error or Omission by registered or certified mail, but need not mail Notices of Failure to File by registered or certified mail. Filings may be mailed by certified mail as well as by registered mail in order	1977

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				to be considered timely if mailed at least two days prior to the due date. [Expanded to an overnight delivery service by P.A. 95, effective June 21, 1989.]	
5/24/1977	N/A	AG #5200	64(1)	Contributions made to a candidate's committee in accordance with 1976 P.A. 388 after April 1, 1977 and prior to June 1, 1977 are eligible for state matching funds if the candidate's committee files its statement of organization up to and including July 1, 1977.	AG Opinion #5200