

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE TREASURY BUILDING



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48912

August 1, 1978

Mr. Donald Hilligoss
P.O. Box 725
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071

Dear Mr. Hilligoss:

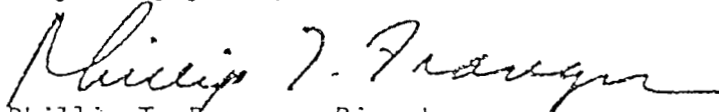
This is in response to your letter concerning the Campaign Finance Act ("the Act"), P.A. 388 of 1976, as amended. You ask for a definition of "campaign expenses" within the context of the Act.

"Campaign expenses" is not specifically defined in the statute. However, Rule 169.1 of the administrative rules promulgated to implement the Act defines "campaign" or "candidate's campaign" as the candidate committee's activities for a specific election. In addition, Section 6(1) of the Act (MCLA s 169.206) defines "expenditure" as anything of ascertainable monetary value spent, donated, loaned, pledged or promised for goods or services to influence a state election. Consequently "campaign expenses" may be construed to mean those expenditures which are made for the purpose of influencing a particular election.

Please note the Act considers the primary to be an election separate from the general election. Therefore, it is more accurate to say "primary election expenditures" and "general election expenditures" as contrasted to using the term "campaign expenses."

This response may be considered informational only and not as constituting a declaratory ruling.

Very truly yours,


Phillip T. Frangos, Director
Office of Hearings and Legislation

PTF:pk