

**Elizabeth Crowley CD #30 (2009)**

**1. Exceeding the expenditure limit**

**VNP**

Candidates who participate in the Campaign Finance Program must abide by limits on the amount of money they can spend on their campaigns. *See* Admin. Code §§ 3-703(1)(i), 3-706, 3-711(2)(a); Board Rules 1-08(a), (d), (l). The expenditure limit for candidates running for City Council in the 2009 general election was \$161,000. The Campaign exceeded the general election expenditure limit by \$2,528.05.

The Campaign's expenditure limit calculation includes the payment of fines totaling \$2,852.59 to the Environmental Control Board for posterizing tickets. Pursuant to Admin. Code § 3-702(21)(a), "non-criminal penalties or fines arising out of a political campaign" are "campaign expenditures." Therefore, the Campaign's ECB fines are subject to the expenditure limit. *See* Admin. Code § 3-706(1).

Although the Campaign technically exceeded the expenditure limit, the violation was deemed a Violation No Penalty (VNP).

**2. Improper post-election expenditures**

**VNP**

After an election and before repaying leftover campaign funds to the Board, Program participants may spend campaign funds only to pay campaign-related expenses incurred in the preceding election and for "routine activities involving nominal cost associated with winding up a campaign and responding to the post-election audit." *See* Admin. Code §§ 3-702(21) and 3-710, and Board Rules 1-03(a) and 5-03(e)(2).

The Campaign's April 2010 bank statement shows a \$75.40 debit to Allianceone on April 24, 2010. The Campaign paid fees totaling \$326.89 to Fax.com and Go Daddy for faxing and web hosting services following the election, and it continued to pay a monthly fee of \$10.04 to Fax.com between July and November 2011. Thus, the total amount of improper post-election expenditures is \$452.49 (( $\$75.40$ ) + ( $\$326.89$ ) + ( $\$10.04 \times 5$ )).

The Board deemed this a Violation No Penalty.

**3. Accepting a corporate contribution**

**VNP**

Campaigns are prohibited from accepting contributions from corporations. *See* Admin. Code § 3-703(1)(l) and Board Rule 1-04(e). The Campaign accepted a \$100 contribution from Don Capalbi, Away U Go Travel, Inc. on October 14, 2009. The Campaign promptly refunded the contribution following CFB staff notification. The Board deemed this a Violation No Penalty.

**4. Failing to timely respond**

**VNP**

Upon request by the CFB, campaigns are required to provide documentation to verify transactions reported in their disclosure statements. *See* Admin. Code § 3-703(1)(d), (g), and Rule 4-01. The Campaign did not respond to CFB's staff post-election documentation request by the January 19, 2010 due date. On January 26, 2010, the Campaign requested an extension of time to submit its response. The Campaign's request for an extension was not timely. The Board deemed this a Violation No Penalty.