



California Fair Political Practices Commission

January 29, 1990

Honorable Ross Johnson
Assembly Republican Leader
State Capitol, Room 2114
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-89-716

Dear Assembly Member Johnson:

You have requested confirmation of oral advice received from staff concerning application of campaign contribution limits under the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹

This will confirm that your letter of December 22, 1989, accurately reflects staff advice concerning the application of fiscal year contribution limits to contributions raised to pay off campaign debts from special elections. Once a special election cycle or special runoff election cycle is completed, subsequent contributions raised to pay off campaign debts from that special election count toward the regular fiscal year contribution limits.

Section 85305(b) defines the special election cycles as follows:

(1) "Special election cycle" means the day on which the office becomes vacant until the day of the special election.

¹ Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated. Commission regulations appear at 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18000, et seq. All references to regulations are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations.

(2) "Special runoff election cycle" means the day after the special election until the day of the special runoff election.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at (916) 332-5901.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Donovan
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret W. Ellison".

By: Margaret W. Ellison
Counsel, Legal Division

KED:MWE:aa



California Fair Political Practices Commission

January 8, 1990

Honorable Ross Johnson
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Re: Letter No. 89-716

Dear Assemblyman Johnson:

Your letter requesting advice under the Political Reform Act was received on December 28, 1989 by the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you have any questions about your advice request, you may contact Margaret Ellison an attorney in the Legal Division, directly at (916) 322-5901.

We try to answer all advice requests promptly. Therefore, unless your request poses particularly complex legal questions, or more information is needed, you should expect a response within 21 working days if your request seeks formal written advice. If more information is needed, the person assigned to prepare a response to your request will contact you shortly to advise you as to information needed. If your request is for informal assistance, we will answer it as quickly as we can. (See Commission Regulation 18329 (2 Cal. Code of Regs. Sec. 18329).)

You also should be aware that your letter and our response are public records which may be disclosed to the public upon receipt of a proper request for disclosure.

Very truly yours,

Kathryn E. Donovan
General Counsel

KED:plh

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

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(916) 445-7448

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(714) 738-5853
(213) 697-0603

Assembly California Legislature

ROSS JOHNSON

ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER



December 22, 1989

Mr. John Larson
Chairman
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street
Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear John:

I would appreciate receiving confirmation for oral advice from your staff concerning debts from special elections.

It is my understanding that it is your position that once a special election cycle or special runoff election cycle is completed, a candidate in that special election must raise contributions to pay off any campaign debts within the regular fiscal year limitations of Prop. 73. Under such an interpretation, any contributions raised to pay off campaign debts from special elections would be cumulated with contributions raised for any other campaign accounts of the candidate.

As defined in Section 85305, special election cycle "means the day on which the office becomes vacant until the day of the special election." Special runoff election cycle "means the day after the special election until the day of the special runoff election."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ross Johnson".

ROSS JOHNSON
Assembly Republican Leader

Dec 22 1989