

State of California



Fair Political Practices Commission

P.O. BOX 807 • SACRAMENTO, 95804 ••• 1100 K STREET BUILDING, SACRAMENTO, 95814

April 14, 1977

A- 77-04-009

Susan Walenta
El Cerrito Democratic Club
P. O. Box 192
El Cerrito, California 94530

Dear Ms. Walenta:

Thank you for your letter of March 28 enclosing copies of past correspondence with the Commission.

The short answer to the question you raise is that the funds you raise for ongoing overhead expenses is not a factor in determining whether or not the club is a committee under the Political Reform Act. The important factor is the amount of funds you receive which are "earmarked" for future political use. For example, if the club previously raised \$300 at fundraisers during the year but only \$50 was earmarked to be used for political purposes, the club would not qualify as a committee under the Political Reform Act. If now, in order to meet rising costs of operation, the club must raise \$500 or more during the year in order to pay operating expenses but still does not earmark \$500 or more for future contributions to campaigns or any other political purpose, the club is still not a committee under the law.

A more detailed explanation to your question can be derived from reading Government Code Section 82015 (definition of "contribution" under the Act) in light of the Commission's regulation 18215 (enclosed) and Government Code Section 82025 (definition of "expenditure" under the Act) in light of the Commission's regulation 18225 (enclosed).

I hope the above explanation is helpful. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance. I have also asked our Technical Assistance staff to be in touch with the California Democratic Council to clear up any misunderstanding they might have with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Bennett".

Michael Bennett
Executive Director

MB:cjb
Enclosures

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