



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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December 22, 2015

Michael Meaney  
Woburn Business Association  
P.O. Box 3057  
Woburn, MA 01888

Re: CPF 15-100

Dear Mr. Meaney:

This office has completed its review of a complaint we received alleging that the Woburn Business Association ("WBA") did not organize as a ballot question committee to oppose Question 1 in Woburn on the November 3, 2015 ballot.

The campaign finance law requires that any group of persons that raises and spends funds to influence a municipal ballot question must organize as a ballot question committee prior to such activity with the local election official. See M.G.L. c. 55, §§ 5 and 18.

Based upon our review, we have determined that although the WBA did solicit contributions on its website to oppose the ballot question, the formation of a ballot question committee was not required because ultimately, the WBA did not accept any contributions. The WBA, instead, used existing funds available to them in its general treasury to make expenditures that advocated a no vote on the ballot question.

M.G.L. c. 55, § 22 states that any organization that makes an expenditure of \$250 or more to influence a ballot question, without raising money for that purpose, must file a report to disclose that expenditure. The WBA, in accordance with Section 22, filed a timely disclosure report, with the Woburn City Clerk. The report disclosed a total of \$2,761 in expenditures made for printing, signs, and ad/inserts. The report was filed on November 6, 2015, well before its January 20, 2016 due date.

Since the WBA did not raise money specifically to influence the ballot question and since the appropriate disclosure report was filed, we have concluded that the WBA has complied with the campaign finance law and OCPF considers this matter closed. Based on our guidance, we believe that the WBA understands its obligation to organize as a ballot question committee if it raises and spends money to influence a future ballot question.



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In accordance with the opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records this letter is a public record. If you have any questions regarding this letter or any other campaign finance matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Sullivan  
Director

MJS/mj