



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Michael J. Sullivan 

DATE: June 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Information on Raffles for Candidates and Political  
Committees - M.G.L. c. 271, 7A

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Massachusetts General Law chapter 271, section 7A governs the conduct of all raffles. The Office of the Attorney General is responsible for interpreting and enforcing this law.

According to the Attorney General, political committees may not conduct raffles. Specifically, the Attorney General has written to city and town clerks advising that:

The law states that any organization that wants to hold a raffle . . . must obtain a permit from their city or town clerk. The law only allows clerks to issue permits to six specific types of organizations. . . **Political committees are not listed in the statute and may not be issued permits and, therefore, may not hold raffles . . .** Moreover, fundraising for political purposes through raffles . . . is also prohibited by c. 271, s. 7A, and by the regulations issued concerning raffles . . . (961 CMR 4.00). See May 14, 1992 letter to City and Town Clerks from Attorney General Harshbarger. (Emphasis added).

If you have any questions regarding raffles, please contact the Office of the Attorney General, Room 2100, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 Attention: Non-Profit and Public Charities Division (617) 727-2200.

