



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Michael J. Sullivan, Director 

SUBJECT: Anonymous Contributions

This memorandum provides guidelines for candidates and political committees which receive anonymous contributions. Regulations issued by this office specify that such contributions "may not be accepted and shall, if unable to be returned to the contributor, be donated within 30 days of receipt, to an entity or entities specified in the residual funds clause, M.G.L. c. 55, § 18¹, or in a manner consistent with 970 CMR 2.05(2)(w) or 970 CMR 2.06(3)(a)². Candidates and political committees must keep records reflecting such contributions." See 970 CMR 1.04(5).

In addition to keeping records reflecting such contributions, candidates and committees must also report the receipt and disposition of anonymous contributions. Although all candidates must report the transaction, non-depository and depository candidates report the transaction in different ways.

¹ The residual funds clause lists the following types of entities:

- (i) the General Fund of the commonwealth;
- (ii) a charitable or religious organization (subject to certain limitations);
- (iii) a scholarship fund (subject to certain limitations); or
- (iv) the general fund of any city or town in the commonwealth.

² These regulatory provisions specify that campaign funds may be contributed to charitable organizations if certain requirements are met. For example, neither the candidate, treasurer, or any official of the political committee making the contribution may be a trustee, officer, principal or beneficiary of the charity, or be involved in operating the charity.



I. Non-depository candidates and committees

Candidates and committees not required to designate a depository must, prior to disposing of an anonymous contribution, deposit the contribution in the committee bank account. The receipt of the contribution must be disclosed on Schedule A of Form CPF 102 (the campaign finance report), and the disposition must be disclosed on Schedule B. The "purpose" section of Schedule B should be completed by noting "disposition of anonymous contribution."

II. Depository candidates and committees

Depository candidates and committees must deposit the contribution within seven days of its receipt by completing a Receipts and Expenditures Report (CPF D106). This report should be submitted to the bank when the contribution is deposited.

The disposition of the contribution by depository candidates and committees must be by a check reflecting the specific purpose, e.g., "disposition of anonymous contribution." The depository bank, upon receipt of the check, will report this information to OCPF.

III. All candidates and committees

As noted in the regulations, anonymous contributions may not be used for campaign purposes and must be disposed of within 30 days of receipt. OCPF strongly recommends, however, that such contributions be disposed of immediately after deposit.

In addition to reporting the receipt and disposition of anonymous contributions as specified above, candidates and committees may submit written correspondence, to be included in the public file, regarding the contribution and its disposition.

For further information and guidance with respect to this memorandum, please contact OCPF.