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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 31, 1998

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**AGREEMENT REACHED IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE CASE**  
**SEN. WILKERSON & COMMITTEE TO FORFEIT \$11,500**

State Sen. Dianne Wilkerson will pay the Commonwealth a civil forfeiture of \$1,500 and her political committee will pay a \$10,000 civil forfeiture as part of a court-enforceable agreement reached with Attorney General Scott Harshbarger to correct numerous campaign finance reporting problems from 1992 to 1995.

In the disposition agreement signed today with Harshbarger and Office of Campaign & Political Finance (OCPF) Director Michael J. Sullivan, Wilkerson acknowledged she failed to file accurate campaign finance reports for 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995; failed to keep adequately detailed records of receipts and expenditures; failed to disclose contributions and expenditures in a timely and complete manner; and, improperly used campaign funds to pay for certain items.

"Complete disclosure is the cornerstone of campaign finance laws, and it requires complete, accurate and timely records," Harshbarger said. "This is a tough but fair agreement that reinforces the fact that candidates and campaign committees have a responsibility to abide by the laws that ensure an open and honest political process."

In addition to the \$11,500 in civil forfeitures assessed against Wilkerson and her committee, the agreement also requires Wilkerson to file with OCPF within 30 days:

\* Affidavits explaining \$15,577 worth of campaign expenditures and liabilities, including \$334 in parking tickets;

\* Amendments to campaign finance reports designed to correct, delete, disclose or update numerous liabilities, in-kind contributions, expenditures, contributions from political action committees, and beginning and ending account balances;

(more)

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\* And, documents explaining nearly \$6,100 reimbursed to Wilkerson by her committee since 1994.

The disposition agreement also includes numerous provisions to ensure that both Wilkerson and her committee comply with state campaign finance reporting requirements in the future.

For example, the agreement requires that Wilkerson include copies of bank statements, canceled committee checks and contributor checks in every regularly scheduled campaign finance filing she makes until the year 2000, as well as in two additional filings required on July 20, 1998 and July 20, 1999.

It also requires that Wilkerson hire an accountant to review and verify in writing the accuracy of all of her campaign finance reports up until January 30, 2001.

OCPF will monitor compliance with the disposition agreement, which can be enforced in Suffolk Superior Court if necessary.

The matter was referred to the Office of the Attorney General by OCPF and was handled by Assistant Attorneys General Benjamin Robbins and William P. Lee.

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