

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
Office of Campaign and Political Finance*

***REPRESENTATIVE KUJAWSKI ADMITS CAMPAIGN
FINANCE VIOLATIONS***

**Under joint agreement with OCPF and the Attorney General, lawmaker to pay
\$16,782 and change recordkeeping practices**

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BOSTON - State Representative Paul Kujawski (D-Webster) has admitted to violating state campaign finance laws between 2001-2003 and to violating a 2001 agreement resolving earlier campaign finance charges in a joint settlement with the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance and the Attorney General.

The 2001-03 issues include personal use of campaign funds, failure to keep proper records, and alleged acceptance of excess contributions from political action committees (PACs).

As part of the joint agreement, Kujawski will pay a total of \$16,782.54 and change his campaign finance recordkeeping and expenditure practices to avoid future violations. The payments, to be paid personally by Kujawski, include a \$2,500 civil forfeiture to the Commonwealth and a \$14,282.54 reimbursement to his campaign committee. His committee will also refund \$500 to two PACs.

The agreement also resolves separate allegations of campaign finance violations in 2001-2003, referred to the Attorney General by OCPF. The allegations were that Kujawski's committee paid for a leased automobile, and for travel, clothing, cleaning, and meals, that were partly or wholly for Kujawski's personal use instead of a permissible campaign-related or other political purpose. Kujawski has admitted personal use of the automobile, and that the clothing and cleaning expenses were for his personal use, but has denied that the travel and meal expenditures were for personal use.

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Under today's agreement, Kujawski will reimburse his committee \$6,200 for automobile use, \$2,105.68 for travel, clothing, and cleaning expenditures and \$1,310.20 for meal expenditures. Kujawski has also admitted to failure to keep required records in connection with many of the questioned expenditures. Kujawski will pay a \$1,500 civil forfeiture to the Commonwealth out of his personal funds in connection with the violations.

In 2002, Kujawski's committee accepted \$10,700 in PAC contributions, which exceeded the \$7,500 limit set by state campaign finance laws. The committee previously refunded most of the contributions questioned by OCPF. Under today's agreement, while not admitting fault, the committee will refund the two remaining contributions, totaling \$500.

Kujawski and his committee also agreed to improve recordkeeping and accept increased OCPF monitoring and authority over automobile, travel, and meal expenditures, as well as PAC contributions; to make no further clothing or cleaning expenditures; and to extend OCPF oversight over other Committee recordkeeping matters.

The settlement was reached without the filing of court proceedings but is enforceable in court if necessary, the Attorney General's Office said.

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