

10A.17 EXPENDITURES.

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** A political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit may not expend money unless the expenditure is authorized by the treasurer or deputy treasurer of that committee, fund, or party unit.

Subd. 2. **Written authorization.** An individual or association may not make an approved expenditure of more than \$20 without receiving written authorization from the treasurer of the principal campaign committee of the candidate who approved the expenditure stating the amount that may be spent and the purpose of the expenditure.

Subd. 3. **Petty cash.** The treasurer or deputy treasurer of a political committee, principal campaign committee, or party unit may sign vouchers for petty cash of up to \$100 per week for statewide elections or \$20 per week for legislative elections, to be used for miscellaneous expenditures.

Subd. 3a. **Personal loans.** A principal campaign committee, political committee, political fund, or party unit may not lend money it has raised to anyone for purposes not related to the conduct of a campaign.

Subd. 4. **Independent expenditures.** (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c), an individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit that independently solicits or accepts contributions or makes independent expenditures on behalf of a candidate must publicly disclose that the expenditure is an independent expenditure. All written communications with those from whom contributions are independently solicited or accepted or to whom independent expenditures are made on behalf of a candidate must contain a statement in conspicuous type that the activity is an independent expenditure and is not approved by the candidate nor is the candidate responsible for it. Similar language must be included in all oral communications, in conspicuous type on the front page of all literature and advertisements published or posted, and at the end of all broadcast advertisements made by that individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit on the candidate's behalf.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to individuals or associations that are not required to register or report under this chapter.

(c) Paragraph (a) does not apply to the following:

(1) bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens, or similar small items on which the independent expenditure statement cannot be conveniently printed;

(2) skywriting, wearing apparel, or other means of displaying an advertisement of such a nature that the inclusion of the independent expenditure statement would be impracticable; and

(3) online banner ads and similar electronic communications that link directly to an online page that includes the independent expenditure statement.

Subd. 5. **Penalty.** A person who violates subdivision 2 is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000. A person who knowingly violates subdivision 3a or 4 or falsely claims that an expenditure was an independent expenditure is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$3,000.

History: 1974 c 470 s 17; 1978 c 463 s 49; 1986 c 444; 1993 c 318 art 2 s 12,13; 1999 c 220 s 20,50; 2002 c 363 s 17,18; 2015 c 73 s 9