



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 411
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
DIRECTOR

TEL: (617) 727-8352
(800) 462-OCPF
FAX: (617) 727-6549

August 13, 2009

Sandra Capo
9 Mirra Way
West Newbury, MA 01985

Anna Marie Dalesandro-Beech
11 Capt. Pierce Drive
West Newbury, MA 01985

Re: CPF-09-43

Dear Ms. Capo and Ms. Dalesandro-Beech:

This office has completed its review of a complaint we received regarding the May 4, 2009, West Newbury town election and the write-in campaign of Thomas Atwood for selectman.

Under the campaign finance law, a group of persons that coordinates its efforts, including fundraising and spending under a common name, for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, is acting as a political action committee. Any group or committee undertaking such efforts is subject to the registration and disclosure requirements of the campaign finance law. See M.G.L. c. 55, §§ 1, 5 and 18.

Further, independent expenditures are defined, in part, as expenditures that expressly advocate the election of a candidate, but such expenditures are not made in consultation or cooperation with a candidate or the candidate's committee. See M.G.L. c. 55, § 18A. Section 18A requires disclosure of independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate that exceed \$100 during a calendar year, within seven business days of the expenditure(s).

You have both stated that you made no expenditures, whether independently or coordinated with Thomas Atwood. If, in the future, activity is undertaken related to a municipal election where you either pool your money or raise and spend money to support or oppose candidates, you must register as a political action committee with the local election official and file campaign disclosure reports.

We have determined that further review or action by this office is not warranted at this time. We anticipate that our review and guidance will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law.



Sandra Capo/Anna Marie Dalesandro-Beech

August 13, 2009

Page 2

In accordance with an opinion of the Supervisor of Public Records, this letter is a public record. A copy is being provided to the person(s) who brought this matter to our attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have additional questions about this or any other campaign finance matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/sh

cc: Lawrence Murphy, West Newbury Town Clerk
Thomas Atwood