



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## UFCW union agrees to campaign finance violations; pays state \$3,500

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Active Ballot Club federal political action committee made several contributions to Massachusetts political committees from 2006 to 2008 in violation of state campaign finance laws. State campaign finance law does not allow federal PACs to make contributions to Massachusetts candidates and political party committees.

To resolve the matter, the union paid \$3,500 to the state's general fund and has agreed to limit or halt its contributions to certain Massachusetts political committees in 2009 and 2010, according to a disposition agreement between OCPF and the union.

The federal PAC's prohibited contributions were \$5,000 to Gov. Deval Patrick's Victory Fund on May 31, 2006; \$15,000 to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee's state account on Oct. 13, 2006; \$5,000 to the Kenneth Donnelly Committee on Nov. 4, 2007; and \$10,500 to the Douglas Belanger Committee, funds that were given in two installments: \$500 on March 14, 2008, and \$10,000 on Aug. 14, 2008.

The UFCW has agreed not to make contributions to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee's state account, the Donnelly Committee or the Belanger Committee during 2009, and is limited to a \$5,000 contribution to the Democratic State Committee's state account in



2010. The union may only contribute \$500 each to the Donnelly and Belanger committees in 2010.

All of the contributions made by the federal PAC from 2006 to 2008 were disclosed in campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission. The federal PAC contributions were also publicly disclosed in campaign finance reports filed with OCPF by the union's Massachusetts PAC, though the money did not come from the state PAC.

The Massachusetts political committees that received the federal PAC contributions were unaware they were receiving funds from a prohibited source, since the face of the checks did not indicate that the funds were from a federal PAC.

As part of the agreement, the union's Massachusetts PAC will dissolve. Money will be raised and expended according to state law if the union decides to organize another Massachusetts PAC in the future.

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance administers MGL Chapter 55, the campaign finance law. Its Web site is: [www.mass.gov/ocpf](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf).