RE: Noncampaign disbursements

ADVISORY OPINION #221

SUMMARY

The costs of driver services needed to enable a disabled person to conduct a campaign for public office should be reported as noncampaign disbursements.

FACTS

You request an advisory opinion from the Ethical Practices Board based on the following facts:

1. You are considering becoming a candidate for the state legislature.
2. You have a disability.
3. In order to conduct a campaign for the legislature, your disability requires that you pay for the services of a driver to transport you to various campaign related functions.
ISSUE

Should the costs of driver services for a disabled candidate be reported as noncampaign disbursements?

OPINION

Yes, the costs of such services are reported as noncampaign disbursements.¹

Based on the facts you present, the costs of services to assist in conducting a campaign are noncampaign disbursements if the services are needed because of the disability.

Issued: 11/17/95

Douglas H. Sillers, Chair
Ethical Practices Board

¹ Minnesota Statutes § 10A.01, subd. 10c