

**State of Minnesota
Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board
Suite 190, Centennial Building. 658 Cedar Street. St. Paul, MN 55155-1603**

**THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION DOES NOT IDENTIFY THE
REQUESTER OF THE ADVISORY OPINION, WHICH IS NON PUBLIC DATA
under Minn. Stat. § 10A.02, subd. 12(b)**

ADVISORY OPINION 449

SUMMARY

An association's advertising policies for accepting political advertisements are not governed by Chapter 10A. Associations should be aware of actions that may result in a prohibited corporate contribution to a candidate's principal campaign committee.

Facts

As a representative of an association that may interact with principal campaign committees, you ask the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board for an advisory opinion based on the following facts:

1. The association is a 501(c)(6) membership-based organization registered as a non-profit corporation in Minnesota.
2. The association produces a bi-monthly print newsletter that is only available to association members. The association also produces a weekly electronic newsletter that is similar in content to the print newsletter, but which is available to individuals who are not members of the association.
3. Members of the association may pay to advertise their products and services in either the print or the electronic version of the newsletter. Advertising is a benefit of association membership, so non-members may not purchase advertisements in either version of the newsletter.
4. Some members of the association are candidates for office at the upcoming election.

Issue One

Is the association required to accept campaign advertisements from non-members, or to accept campaign advertisements that the association deemed to be insulting or derogatory on a personal level?

