



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

April 4, 1988

AO-88-12

John C. Bradford
State Representative
1016 Walnut Plain Road
West Wareham, MA 02576

Dear Representative Bradford:

This letter is in response to your request for an advisory opinion. You have questioned whether your political committee may pay for membership to Citizens for Limited Taxation, an advocacy organization.

You have stated that but for the matter of advancing your political future, you would not purchase a membership in the Citizens for Limited Taxation.

Section 6 of M.G.L. c.55 states, in pertinent part: "[a]ny...political committee, duly organized, may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use..."

970 C.M.R. §2.06 (3) (c) permits expenditures by a candidate's political committee for "[m]emberships for the candidate in organizations and associations, provided that the candidate would not be participating in the particular organization or association but for his interest in it enhancing his political stature."

It is the opinion of this office that your political committee may pay your membership dues for Citizens for Limited Taxation, based on the fact that you would have not joined Citizens for Limited Taxation but for the enhancement of your political future.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have additional questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis J. Duffin".

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

DJD/ba