



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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MARY F. MCTIGUE
DIRECTOR

December 30, 1993
AO-93-33

Sulo A. Soini
Collector of Taxes
Weymouth Town Hall
75 Middle Street
E. Weymouth, MA 02189

Re: Disposition of Political Committee Assets

Dear Mr. Soini:

This letter is in response to your October 4, 1993 letter requesting an advisory opinion.

You have stated that you have closed out your political committee's bank account. You have also stated that you do not intend to seek an elected public office in the future. You would like to know what you can do with the residual campaign funds.

Your question can be answered by reference to M.G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law. Section 18 of chapter 55 provides that when a candidate or political committee closes its account, it must donate the residual funds remaining in the account to (1) the Local Aid Fund established under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 29, s. 2D; (2) a charitable organization which is subject to M.G.L. c. 67 or M.G.L. c. 12, s. 8; (3) a scholarship fund; or (4) the general fund of any city or town in the commonwealth.

Payment to a charitable organization or scholarship under section 18 may be made, however, only in certain circumstances:

[payment may be made to a **charitable organization**, provided that:] . . . the candidate, treasurer or any official of the political committee shall not be related by consanguinity or affinity to any trustee, officer, principal or beneficiary of said entity either at the time of the gift or within ten years from the date of such gift; provided, further, that no entity may employ as a trustee, officer, principal or beneficiary any person related by consanguinity or

affinity to the candidate, treasurer or any official of the political committee either at the time of the gift or within ten years from the date of such gift;

[and payment may be made to a **scholarship fund** provided that:] . . . the candidate, treasurer or any official of the political committee shall not participate in the selection of the beneficiary of any scholarship awarded from such fund; and provided further, the beneficiary of any scholarship awarded from such fund shall not be related by consanguinity or affinity to the candidate, treasurer or any official of the political committee.

This opinion has been rendered solely on the basis of the representations in your letter and in a telephone conversation with Gregory Birne of this office, and solely in the context of M.G.L. c. 55.

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

Very truly yours,



Mary F. McTigue
Director

MFM/cp