

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS



MEMORANDUM

DATE: Monday April 28, 2025

TO: Ms. Erin Gabriel, Beaver County Democratic Committee Chair
Mr. Chris Trieb, Republican Committee of Beaver County Chair
All Candidates for Office

CC: Nathan A. Bible, District Attorney
Garen Fedeles and Nathan Morgan, Beaver County Law Department
Commissioners Daniel C. Camp III, Jack Manning, Tony Amadio, Beaver County Election Board

FROM: Colin Sisk, Director of Elections

RE: Disclaimers on Public Advertisements of Candidates

Board of Commissioners
Daniel C. Camp III, Chairman
Jack Manning
Tony Amadio

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
810 Third Street
Beaver, PA 15009
Colin Sisk, Director
724-770-4432 | PHONE
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Please allow this memo to serve as a reminder of important elements of Pennsylvania's Election Code that govern campaign finance. Specifically, I am writing as it relates to disclaimers that are required to be printed on any advertising or promotional materials used during political campaigns.

25 PS § 3258 of the Election Code states the following (emphasis ours):

Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing communications expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate, or ballot questions, through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising, such communication:

(1) If authorized by the candidate, his authorized political committee or their agents, shall clearly and conspicuously state that the communication has been authorized.

(2) If not authorized by a candidate, his authorized political committee, or their agents, shall clearly and conspicuously state the name of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication, including, in the case of a political committee the name of any affiliated or connected organization.

Plain text reading of this statute requires that political signage and promotional materials must clearly state who has paid for the materials in question. However, Title 4 of the Pennsylvania Code (at § 181.1 - Identification), clarifies this matter further (emphasis ours):

(b) The requirements of [the previous] subsection [(a)] do not apply to bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens and similar small items upon which the statement cannot be conveniently printed.

Parties, committees, and candidates shall be advised that any advertising materials used by candidates that are missing aforementioned disclaimers and are reported to the Bureau of Elections shall result in a notice being sent to the candidates requiring them to remedy the mistake. If the same materials are not subsequently amended during the time frame provided, matters may be referred to the District Attorney. Pursuant to 25 PS § 3258 (emphasis ours):

Any person, firm or corporation, political committee or party or member thereof, violating any of the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or to undergo an imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than two (2) years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

If there are any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau of Elections at 724-770-4440.