

# The State of South Carolina



## Office of the Attorney General

T. TRAVIS MEDLOCK  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

REMBERT C. DENNIS BUILDING  
POST OFFICE BOX 11549  
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29211  
TELEPHONE 803-734-3970

September 17, 1986

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield  
Member, House of Representatives  
Box 1734  
Conway, South Carolina 29526

Dear Representative Barfield:

In a telephone call to this Office you questioned whether you may use funds raised in association with your campaign for re-election to the State House of Representatives to pay for having a truck owned by you painted and to pay the insurance on the truck. You specifically stated that you had an old pick-up truck which is used for campaigning about ninety-five per cent of the time. For the remainder of the time the truck is used for personal business. An old sign advocating your re-election had been placed on the truck but you indicated it is now torn and unusable. You now wish to have a permanent sign painted on your truck regarding your re-election bid using campaign funds to pay for the expense. Also, as stated, you wish to use campaign funds to pay the insurance on the truck.

According to my information you contacted the House Ethics Committee regarding your question and were informed that campaign funds could be used for maintenance of the truck. However, Representative Pat Harris of the Committee was not able to be more specific at that time in regard to your specific question concerning painting the truck.

I am unaware of any specific law in this State responsive to your questions. I checked with Gary Baker of the State Ethics Commission and was advised that the Commission has not issued any opinions on questions similar to yours. He also indicated that he was unaware of any statutes or regulations in this State which control the expenditure of campaign funds by a candidate in this State. I am also unaware of any general law which controls in this area.

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Inasmuch as there are no laws which categorically control the expenditure of campaign funds, I am unaware of any specific prohibitions to the use of campaign funds in the manner described by you. However, I was informed that the House Ethics Committee would consider issuing an opinion on such matter if asked. Therefore, you may also wish to consider seeking an opinion from that body. I would only note that pursuant to Section 8-13-620 of the Code, a report must be filed with the appropriate office stating the amounts of campaign funds expended and for what purposes the funds were spent.

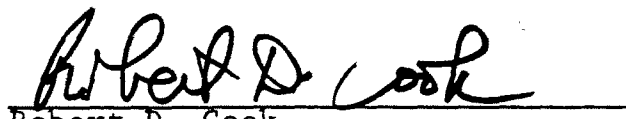
If there is anything further, please advise.

Sincerely,

  
Charles H. Richardson  
Assistant Attorney General

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REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

  
Robert D. Cook  
Executive Assistant for Opinions