

1979 WL 43063 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

June 11, 1979

\*1 Honorable Larry Blanding  
Representative  
District No. 70  
State House  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Representative Blanding:

Mr. McLeod has referred your recent letter to me for reply. You have stated that in the general election in 1978, political advertisement which expressed the opinion of the county council on a referendum issue was purchased in the local paper with county funds. You have asked if public funds may be utilized to purchase political advertisements to express the position of elected public officials.

Article X of the South Carolina Constitution clearly indicates that the State and its political subdivisions are prohibited from expending public funds for other than public purposes. The authorities in general prohibit the use of public funds to pay for advertisements to bring about a favorable vote on an issue, 15 McQUILLIN MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, § 39.21; and prohibit appropriating public money for advertising without an express grant of authority to do so, 15 McQUILLIN MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, § 44.40.

Therefore, the use of public money to advertise the personal opinions of elected public officials would be prohibited.

Very truly yours,

Treva G. Ashworth  
Senior Assistant Attorney General

1979 WL 43063 (S.C.A.G.)

---

End of Document

© 2017 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.