



PHIL McGRANE
IDAHO SECRETARY OF STATE

October 11, 2024

Patricia Carter-Goodheart
[REDACTED]

RE: Caregiving Expenses

Dear Patricia Carter-Goodheart,

I apologize for the delay in responding to your question. On September 13, 2024, you presented the following question:

Question

Are caregiving expenses – defined as direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or other person with a disability or a medical condition for which a candidate has direct caregiving responsibility – incurred as a direct result of campaign activity and holding public office deemed a permissible campaign expenditure in the state of Idaho?

Response

To the extent such expenses are incurred in connection with the campaign for public office of the candidate, or other permissible purposes, as listed in Idaho Code § 67-6610C(1), these expenses may be permissible.

Idaho Code § 67-6610C (2) outlines prohibited uses of campaign funds:

- (a) In general. A contribution shall not be converted by any person to personal use.
- (b) Conversion. For the purposes of subsection (2)(a) of this section, a contribution shall be considered to be converted to personal use if the contribution is used to fulfill any commitment, obligation or expense of a person that would exist irrespective of the candidate's election campaign or individual's duties as a holder of public office, including:
 - (i) A home mortgage, rent or utility payment;
 - (ii) A clothing purchase except for items of de minimus value such as campaign shirts or hats;
 - (iii) A noncampaign or nonofficeholder related automobile expense;
 - (iv) A country club membership;
 - (v) A vacation or other noncampaign-related trip;
 - (vi) A tuition payment;
 - (vii) Admission to a sporting event, concert, theater, or other form of entertainment not associated with an election campaign;

- (viii) Dues, fees and other payments to a health club or recreational facility; and
- (ix) Meals, groceries or other food expense, except for tickets to meals that the candidate attends solely for the purpose of enhancing the candidacy of another person or meal expenses which are incurred as part of a campaign activity or as part of a function that is related to the candidate's or officeholder's responsibilities.

This list is not exhaustive, but the intent is to point back to 67-6610C (2) (b), ensuring that campaign funds are used in connection with the campaign and not for expenses that would otherwise equate to personal use.

If you have further questions or need any assistance with reporting, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Peggy Caraway
Campaign Finance Coordinator