

To:
NAME of Regulatory Body
ADDRESS
PHONE
EMAIL

DATE

Re: Advisory Opinion Request

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [NAME] and I am a current [Campaign or Legislative Title] in the [X District of STATE]. I am writing to request an ethics ruling on the use of campaign funds to pay for security expenses directly related to both campaign activity and legislative duties.

Question Presented

Are security expenses – defined as non-structural security devices; structural security devices; professional security personnel and services; and cybersecurity software, devices, and services – incurred as a direct result of campaign activity and holding public office deemed a permissible expenditure in the state of [STATE]?

Analysis

Federal law permits the use of campaign funds for reasonable security measures for candidates, officeholders, their family members, and staff if the expenses address “ongoing dangers or threats that would not exist irrespective of the individual’s status or duties as a federal candidate or officeholder.” The Federal Election Commission outlines covered expenses, including:

“Security measures that campaign funds may be used to pay for include, but are not limited to:

- **Non-structural security devices** such as hardware, locks, alarm systems, motion detectors and security camera systems.
- **Structural security devices** such as wiring, lighting, gates, doors and fencing, so long as such devices are intended solely to provide security and not to improve the property or increase its value.
- **Security personnel** that are bona fide, legitimate and professional.
- **Cybersecurity software, devices and services.”**

Under current [STATE] state law, it is unclear whether security expenses incurred as a direct result of candidacy or public office are considered permissible expenditures.

[Insert current state campaign finance law regarding permissible expenditures for state and local candidates]

I respectfully request that the [STATE Commission / Attorney General / Secretary of State] issue an advisory opinion clarifying whether security costs incurred in connection with running for or holding public office in [STATE] are considered personal use or permissible campaign expenditures under [STATE] law.

If you have any questions or need additional information in connection with this Advisory Opinion Request, please contact me at [EMAIL].

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]
[Campaign or Legislative Title]
[Signature]