

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF ETHICS

Advisory Opinion 2006-001: Limits on Political Contributions for the Mayoral Campaign

Chapter 20-1000 of the Philadelphia Code contains the City's regulations regarding political contributions. The provisions of that Chapter are subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics, which was installed on November 27, 2006.

Chapter 20-1000 includes the following contribution limits:

- Section 20-1002(1) provides that no individual shall make total contributions to a candidate for a City elective office of more than \$2,500 per calendar year.
- Section 20-1002(2) provides that no "person" (which includes partnerships, corporations, sole proprietorships and any other form of business organization), and no political committee, shall make total contributions to a candidate for a City elective office of more than \$10,000 per calendar year.

Additionally, a candidate for City elective office is not permitted to have more than one political committee and checking account for the city office being sought, into which all contributions for such office shall be made and out of which all expenditures for that office shall be made.

The limitations on political contributions under Chapter 20-1000 do not apply to contributions from a candidate's personal resources made to his or her candidate political committee. Pursuant to Section 20-1002(6), however, if a candidate contributes more than \$250,000 from his personal resources to his or her candidate political committee (regardless of when such contributions were made), then the contribution limits set forth in Section 20-1002 double for all candidates *for that City elective office*. The doubling provision is effective December 16, 2006.

On November 30, 2006, Tom Knox announced his candidacy for the City elective office of Mayor. The Board of Ethics has confirmed that Mr. Knox has contributed more than \$250,000 of his personal resources to his candidate political committee.

Therefore, effective December 16, 2006, the contribution limits set forth in Sections 20-1002(1) and (2) are doubled for all candidates for the office of Mayor (this does not affect or change the contribution limits for any other City elective office). As of December 16, 2006, the calendar year limits on political contributions to candidates for the office of Mayor for the current election cycle shall be:

- Individuals: **\$5,000.**
- “Persons” (including partnerships, corporations, sole proprietorships and any other form of business organization) and political committees: **\$20,000.**

Questions concerning Philadelphia’s regulations on political contributions and expenditures should be directed to the Ethics Board’s interim executive director, J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Esq., who can be reached at 215 686-9916.

By the Board:

Richard Glazer, Esq., Chair
Richard Negrin, Esq., Vice-Chair
Pauline Abernathy, Member
Stella M. Tsai, Esq., Member
Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Member

Issued December 4, 2006