

Philadelphia Board of Ethics

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Ethics Board Announces Settlement with Councilwoman Campbell and the Democratic City Committee PACs *City Law Prohibits City Council Candidate From Involvement in Democratic PACs' Finances*

PHILADELPHIA - The independent Philadelphia Board of Ethics today reached a Settlement Agreement with the Democratic City Committee's two Political Action Committees (PACs) and Councilwoman Carol Campbell. Under the terms of this agreement, Councilwoman Campbell agreed to refrain from taking any action whatsoever to authorize or influence the financial decisions of the two PACs. The settlement agreement was reached after the Ethics Board's investigation discovered credible evidence that Councilwoman Campbell was directing the Democratic PACs' campaign contributions and other expenditures to influence Tuesday's primary election in violation of the City's campaign finance law.

"This settlement demonstrates the Ethics Board's vigilance as it endeavors to enforce the City's campaign finance law" said Richard Glazer, Esquire, Chair of the Ethics Board.

The "Single Committee Rule" in the City's campaign finance law requires candidates for City elective office to use only one political committee as they run for office. Candidates are prohibited from using funds in any other political committee to influence the outcome of any election for City office under that Rule. Because the two Democratic PACs (Campaign and Finance) make expenditures to influence all City elections, it is a violation of the Single Committee Rule for a candidate to be involved with decisions to authorize those expenditures.

In addition to Candidate Campbell's agreement to immediately refrain from influencing the financial decisions of the two PACs, the officers, agents and staff of the PACs may not accept any direction or instructions from her. The treasurers, on behalf of the PACs, have further agreed to provide detailed information to the Board on all expenditures intended to influence the primary election. The Board will continue to monitor the expenditures by the two PACs under the agreement.

The Settlement Agreement prevents the need for the Ethics Board to seek injunctive relief before the May 15th primary election. However, as the Board's investigation continues, the Agreement preserves the Board's ability to pursue penalties and fines for any specific expenditures of the PACs.

The settlement agreement is available on request and will be posted on the Ethics Board's web site at: <http://www.phila.gov/ethicsboard/>.

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The five-member, independent Philadelphia Board of Ethics was established by ordinance, approved by voters in May 2006 and installed on November 27, 2006. It is charged with providing ethics training for all city employees and enforcing city campaign finance, financial disclosure and conflict of interest laws, and has authority to render advice, investigate complaints and issue fines.