

K.S.A. 25-4143

25-4143. Campaign finance; definitions.

As used in the campaign finance act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Agent" means an individual who is:

- (1) A candidate;
- (2) a chairperson of a candidate, political or party committee;
- (3) a treasurer; or
- (4) any director, officer, employee, paid consultant or other person who is authorized to act on behalf of persons listed in this subsection.

(b) "Candidate" means an individual who:

- (1) Appoints a treasurer or a candidate committee;
- (2) makes a public announcement of intention to seek nomination or election to state or local office;
- (3) makes any expenditure or accepts any contribution for such person's nomination or election to any state or local office; or
- (4) files a declaration or petition to become a candidate for state or local office.

(c) "Candidate committee" means a committee appointed by a candidate to receive contributions and make expenditures for the candidate.

(d) "Clearly identified candidate" means a candidate who has been identified by the:

- (1) Use of the name of the candidate;
- (2) use of a photograph or drawing of the candidate; or
- (3) unambiguous reference to the candidate whether or not the name, photograph or drawing of such candidate is used.

(e) "Commission" means the governmental ethics commission.

(f)(1) "Contribution" means:

- (A) Any advance, conveyance, deposit, distribution, gift, loan or payment of money or any other thing of value given to a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee for the express purpose of nominating, electing or defeating a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office;
- (B) any advance, conveyance, deposit, distribution, gift, loan or payment of money or any other thing of value made to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office;
- (C) a transfer of funds between any two or more candidate committees, party committees or political committees;
- (D) the payment, by any person other than a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee, of compensation to an individual for the personal services rendered without charge to or for a candidate's campaign or to or for any such committee;

(E) the purchase of tickets or admissions to, or advertisements in journals or programs for, testimonial events; or

(F) a mailing of materials designed to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, which is made and paid for by a party committee with the consent of such candidate.

(2) "Contribution" does not include:

(A) The value of volunteer services provided without compensation;

(B) costs to a volunteer related to the rendering of volunteer services not exceeding a fair market value of \$50 during an allocable election period as provided in K.S.A. 25-4149, and amendments thereto;

(C) payment by a candidate or candidate's spouse for personal meals, lodging and travel by personal automobile of the candidate or candidate's spouse while campaigning; or

(D) the value of goods donated to events such as testimonial events, bake sales, garage sales and auctions by any person not exceeding a fair market value of \$50 per event.

(g) "Election" means:

(1) A primary or general election for state or local office; and

(2) a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate a candidate for state or local office.

(h)(1) "Expenditure" means:

(A) Any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or any other thing of value made by a candidate, candidate committee, party committee or political committee for the express purpose of nominating, electing or defeating a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office;

(B) any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or any other thing of value made to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office;

(C) any contract to make an expenditure;

(D) a transfer of funds between any two or more candidate committees, party committees or political committees;  
or

(E) payment of a candidate's filing fees.

(2) "Expenditure" does not include:

(A) The value of volunteer services provided without compensation;

(B) costs to a volunteer incidental to the rendering of volunteer services not exceeding a fair market value of \$50 during an allocable election period as provided in K.S.A. 25-4149, and amendments thereto;

(C) payment by a candidate or candidate's spouse for personal meals, lodging and travel by personal automobile of the candidate or candidate's spouse while campaigning or payment of such costs by the treasurer of a candidate or candidate committee;

(D) the value of goods donated to events such as testimonial events, bake sales, garage sales and auctions by any person not exceeding fair market value of \$50 per event; or

(E) any communication by an incumbent elected state or local officer with one or more individuals unless the primary purpose thereof is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate.

(i) "Expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate" means any communication that uses phrases including, but not limited to:

- (1) "Vote for the secretary of state";
- (2) "re-elect your senator";
- (3) "support the democratic nominee";
- (4) "cast your ballot for the republican challenger for governor";
- (5) "Smith for senate";
- (6) "Bob Jones in '98";
- (7) "vote against Old Hickory";
- (8) "defeat" accompanied by a picture of one or more candidates; or
- (9) "Smith's the one."

(j) "Party committee" means:

- (1) The state committee of a political party regulated by article 3 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;
- (2) the county central committee or the state committee of a political party regulated under article 38 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;
- (3) the bona fide national organization or committee of those political parties regulated by the Kansas Statutes Annotated;
- (4) the political committee established by the state committee of any such political party and designated as a recognized political committee for the senate;
- (5) the political committee established by the state committee of any such political party and designated as a recognized political committee for the house of representatives; or
- (6) the political committee per congressional district established by the state committee of a political party regulated under article 38 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, and designated as a congressional district party committee.

(k) "Person" means any individual, committee, corporation, partnership, trust, organization or association.

(l)(1) "Political committee" means any combination of two or more individuals or any person other than an individual, a major purpose of which is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office or make contributions to or expenditures for the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office.

(2) "Political committee" shall not include a candidate committee or a party committee.

(m) "Receipt" means a contribution or any other money or thing of value, but not including volunteer services provided without compensation, received by a treasurer in the treasurer's official capacity.

(n) "State office" means any state office as defined in K.S.A. 25-2505, and amendments thereto.

(o) "Testimonial event" means an event held for the benefit of an individual who is a candidate to raise contributions for such candidate's campaign. "Testimonial events" includes, but are not limited to, dinners, luncheons, rallies, barbecues and picnics.

(p) "Treasurer" means a treasurer of a candidate or of a candidate committee, a party committee or a political committee appointed under the campaign finance act or a treasurer of a combination of individuals or a person other than an individual which is subject to K.S.A. 25-4172(a)(2), and amendments thereto.

(q) "Local office" means a member of the governing body of a city of the first class, any elected office of a unified school district having 35,000 or more pupils regularly enrolled in the preceding school year, a county or of the board of public utilities.

### **Credits**

Laws 1981, ch. 171, § 2; Laws 1989, ch. 111, § 3; Laws 1990, ch. 122, § 16; Laws 1991, ch. 150, § 6; Laws 1995, ch. 192, § 14; Laws 1998, ch. 117, § 4; Laws 2000, ch. 124, § 12; Laws 2001, ch. 159, § 1; Laws 2023, ch. 23, § 2, eff. April 20, 2023.

K. S. A. 25-4143, KS ST 25-4143

Statute are current through laws enacted during the 2023 Regular Session of the Kansas Legislature.