



Policy: Allowable Spending for Candidates Running for Office of President

Section: Finance

Date Reviewed: n/a – New Policy

Date Effective: September 17, 2020

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Policy Statements:

- 1.1 A candidate campaigning for the office of President is prohibited from spending, in cash or “in kind”¹, in excess of \$3000 (three thousand dollars) in total for:
- Campaign materials, meetings, communications. This includes the cost of purchasing/producing and distributing campaign materials; and/or conducting meetings, including food and refreshments; and/or communicating with one or more constituents; and/or any other cost that can reasonably be described as a campaign materials, meetings, or communications expense;
 - Campaign travel expenses within British Columbia. This includes vehicle mileage (at HSA’s applicable per-kilometre rate), air/ferry/train/transit/taxi, restaurant meals, accommodation, and/or any other cost that can reasonably be described as a campaign travel expense; and
 - Family and Dependant Care (Childcare). This is the receipted cost of reasonable family, dependant and personal attendant care expenses (including childcare) incurred by a candidate for campaigning, where the cost is over and above family, dependant and personal attendant care expenses regularly incurred as a result of the candidate’s normal occupation.

¹“in kind” refers to fair market value of those goods or services that are not purchased, but are nevertheless used for the purpose of the candidate’s campaign. An example is donated printing services. Volunteer labour is not reportable as an in kind expenditure unless the volunteer would normally charge for that labour, e.g. as a self-employed website developer. Meals prepared in a candidate’s home or hospitality offered by friends/family, while travelling, are not reportable as an in kind expenditure.

- 1.2 The provisions described in policy statement 1.1 above are absolute. No request to deviate from these provisions will be made or accepted.
- 1.3 HSA will reimburse a candidate running for the office of President for receipted campaign expenses to a maximum of \$3000 for expenses listed in policy statement 1.1.
- A candidate may apply for an advance of up to \$3000, for the purpose of conducting their campaign, by submitting their request to the support staff person for the Elections Committee. (See policy statement 1.10 that requires the candidate to return to HSA any monies for anticipated expenses not supported by receipts.)
- 1.4 A candidate must campaign on their own time. Their time is not a cost to be either reported or reimbursed.

- 1.5 The campaign period commences effective the date the election is announced and ends when the ballots are counted.
- 1.6 A candidate must use the prescribed Statement of Campaign Expenses form throughout their campaign to record every expense at such time as it is incurred (or as practically as possible) and to ensure that all expenses are reported.
- 1.7 A candidate must keep a receipt for every campaign expense. An expense must still be reported, regardless of whether the candidate submits a claim for it.
In kind contributions must be supported by documentation confirming fair market value.
- 1.8 A candidate must submit their completed Statement of Campaign Expenses form, with supporting receipts/documentation attached, to the staff support person of the Elections Committee, within 30 days of the publication of the election results.
- 1.9 HSA will make a copy of a candidate's completed Statement of Campaign Expenses form available to any member who makes such a request to the staff support person for the Elections Committee.
- 1.10 If a candidate received an advance from HSA, pursuant to policy statement 1.3, and that advance is in excess of the receipts attached to their submitted, completed Statement of Campaign Expenses form, the candidate shall return the excess advanced amount to HSA upon submission of their completed Statement of Campaign Expenses form.
- 1.11 Allegations of non-compliance with this policy shall be brought to the attention of the Elections Committee.

The Chair of the Elections Committee, or alternatively, another member on the Elections Committee, shall file an Article 15 complaint concerning alleged non-compliance whenever there appears to be:

- (i) failure by a candidate to submit their completed Statement of Campaign Expenses form and/or campaign expense receipts;
- (ii) failure by a candidate to return to HSA monies that were advanced in excess of receipted expenses; or
- (iii) violation of the campaign spending limit.

This process does not preclude another member from independently filing an Article 15 complaint about such allegations.