Administration of Campaign Finance, Conflict of Interest & Lobbying Laws



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GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

https://ethics.kansas.gov

June 30, 2021

Senator Richard Kloos 4728 SE Berryton Rd Berryton KS 66409

Senator Kloos:

Per your request, this writing is intended to summarize and memorialize our previous interactions regarding the use of "God's Storehouse" on yard signs during the election.

During the campaign, you had contacted our office, indicating that you were considering placing signs that included text indicating you were the founder of your nonprofit, "God's Storehouse." If my memory is accurate, a third party had indicated to you that you should check with our office to ensure that the mention of "God's Storehouse" would not violate any laws under the purview of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.

After we discussed the issue with you, we indicated that the use of "God's Storehouse" text would not violate the Kansas Campaign Finance Act. The only provision at issue is whether adding the text regarding the nonprofit to the signs would constitute "personal use" of campaign funds in violation of K.S.A. 25-4157a. Our guidance was (and is) that it is a legitimate campaign expenditure to provide voters with context regarding who you are and the nonprofit with which you are associated. Therefore, the inclusion of the nonprofit on campaign yard signs did not violate the Campaign Finance Act or other ethics law under our jurisdiction.

If there are further questions or any needed guidance, as always, feel free to reach out to our office.

Sincerely,

Mark Skoglund
Executive Director

MS:sf