



To: All Elected Officials and Candidates for Public Office in Arizona

From: Adrian Fontes, Secretary of State

Subject: Use of Campaign Funds for Personal Security

Whereas: political violence and the threat of political violence continue to rise across the United States, and;

Whereas: candidates and elected officials have reached out to this Office to inquire what they can legally do to ensure their own safety and the safety of their families, and;

Whereas: political violence has no place in a democratic society; every American has the fundamental right under the Constitution to speak their mind and participate in the civic process without fear of violence or retribution;

Therefore: it is the opinion of the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona that candidates for any office subject to the jurisdiction of this Office as filing officer may lawfully use privately raised campaign funds for personal security for themselves and their families provided that the campaign's statutory obligations are met.

A.R.S. § 16-901(25) defines "expenditure" as "any purchase, payment or other thing of value that is made by a person for the purpose of influencing an election." A.R.S. § 16-921(A) clarifies that "a person may make any expenditure not otherwise prohibited by law." Arizona law gives campaigns discretion to spend the funds they raise as they believe will influence an election.

Unfortunately, personal security has become a necessary part of running for and holding elected office.

Given this, this Administration will not open complaints or refer for enforcement any alleged violations of campaign finance law based on campaign committee expenditures on personal security for candidates or their families.

Disclaimer: nothing in this memorandum is intended to offer legal advice or speak on behalf of any public official other than the Secretary of State. Campaigns are, as always, advised to consult their own legal counsel on matters of campaign finance compliance.

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