

DE 94-02 - February 22, 1994

**Use of Money Orders as Campaign Contribution
§ 106.011(3), F.S.**

TO: The Honorable Tommie Bell, Supervisor of Elections, Duval County, 105 East Monroe Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Prepared by: Division of Elections

This is in reference to your request for an advisory opinion concerning whether a money order may be accepted as a campaign contribution by a candidate. You are the Supervisor of Elections of Duval County. Therefore, under Section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, the Division of Elections has authority to issue this opinion to you.

You ask:

May a money order be accepted as a campaign contribution by a candidate?

Your question is answered in the affirmative. A candidate may accept a money order as a campaign contribution.

Section 106.011(3), Florida Statutes, defines contribution to mean among other things, a payment of money made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election. Black's Law Dictionary defines money order as "[a] type of negotiable draft issued by banks, post offices, telegraph companies and express companies and used by the purchaser as a substitute for a check." Black's Law Dictionary, 907 (5th ed. 1979). Similarly, Webster's Dictionary defines money order to mean "[a]n order for the payment of a stated sum of money, usu. issued and payable at a bank or post office." Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary, 765 (2nd ed. 1988).

Based on these definitions, a money order a person has caused a bank, post office, telegraph company, or express company to issue to a candidate for purposes of influencing the results of the candidate's election would constitute a contribution as defined in Section 106.011(3), Florida Statutes. Thus, a candidate may accept a money order as a form of campaign contribution.

SUMMARY

A candidate may accept a money order as a form of campaign contribution.