

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
Robert Kalechman, Simsbury

File No. 2010-119

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Complainant brings this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that Representative Linda Schofield violated § 9-621. Specifically, that her campaign signs located throughout Simsbury did not have the required attribution even though they exceeded the minimum size qualifying them for such exemption under § 9-621 (d). After investigation, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. Respondent, Nicholas B. Mason, was the Treasurer of *Schofield for State Rep* (hereinafter "Committee"), a candidate committee, registered by State Representative Linda Schofield for re-election to the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District at the November 2, 2010 election.
2. The campaign signs that are subject of this investigation appeared in various locations in Simsbury in the weeks prior to the election. Complainant, with the assistance of Commission staff, identified four signs in Simsbury that fit the description of those identified by the complaint. The campaign signs each read: "*Linda Schofield – State Representative*" and did not include attributions.
3. Respondent was cooperative throughout the investigation and provided an invoice and description of the signs and their locations to the Commission. The campaign signs in question cost \$797.12 and were paid for by the Committee.
4. General Statute § 9-621, provides in pertinent part:

*(a) No individual shall make or incur any expenditure with the consent of, in coordination with or in consultation with any candidate, candidate committee or candidate's agent, no group of two or more individuals acting together that receives funds or makes or incurs expenditures not exceeding one thousand dollars in the aggregate and has not formed a political committee shall make or incur any expenditure, and no candidate or committee shall make or incur any expenditure including an organization expenditure for a party candidate listing, as defined in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of section 9-601, for any written, typed or other printed communication, or any web-based, written communication, which promotes the success or defeat of any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election or promotes or opposes any political party or solicits funds to benefit any political party or committee*

*unless such communication bears upon its face (1) the words "paid for by" and the following: (A) In the case of such an individual, the name and address of such individual; (B) in the case of a committee other than a party committee, the name of the committee and its campaign treasurer; (C) in the case of a party committee, the name of the committee; or (D) in the case of a group of two or more individuals that receives funds or makes or incurs expenditures not exceeding one thousand dollars in the aggregate and has not formed a political committee, the name of the group and the name and address of its agent, and (2) the words "approved by" and the following: (A) In the case of an individual, group or committee other than a candidate committee making or incurring an expenditure with the consent of, in coordination with or in consultation with any candidate, candidate committee or candidate's agent, the name of the candidate; or (B) in the case of a candidate committee, the name of the candidate. ...*

*(d) The provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to (1) any editorial, news story, or commentary published in any newspaper, magazine or journal on its own behalf and upon its own responsibility and for which it does not charge or receive any compensation whatsoever, (2) any banner, (3) political paraphernalia including pins, buttons, badges, emblems, hats, bumper stickers or other similar materials, or (4) signs with a surface area of not more than thirty-two square feet.*

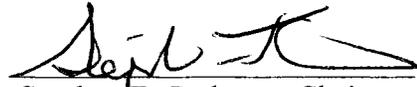
5. The Respondent maintains, that because each of the campaign signs in question had a surface area of not more than thirty-two square feet they were therefore pursuant to § 9-621 (d) exempted from the statutory attribution and disclaimer requirement of General Statutes § 9-621 (a). The Commission agrees with the Respondent.
6. Upon investigation, the Commission finds that each of the aforementioned campaign signs identified by the complaint was determined to measure 8 feet in length by 4 feet in width, or 32 square feet.
7. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the campaign signs purchased by Respondent for the Committee and erected in Simsbury prior to the November 2, 2010 election were exempted by General Statutes § 9-621 (d), from the provisions of § 9-621 (a) requiring an attribution for expenditures by a candidate committee on printed materials promoting that candidate, in that the surface area of the aforementioned signs did not exceed 32 square feet.

ORDER

The following Order is recommended on the basis of the aforementioned finding:

That the Complaint be dismissed.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January of 2011 at Hartford, Connecticut

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steph K", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman  
By Order of the Commission