

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Complaint of Cynthia McCorkindale, Bethel

File No. 2013-103

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant filed this complaint with the Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b alleging that a political committee named *Vote Yes for Clean Drinking Water* accepted an impermissibly large contribution from the Aquarion Company, a business entity.

After an investigation of the complaint, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. At all times relevant hereto, *Vote Yes for Clean Drinking Water* was a durational political committee formed in relation to a municipal referendum question.
2. At all times relevant hereto, *Aquarion Company PAC* was a political committee established by a business entity.
3. Through its treasurer, *Vote Yes for Clean Drinking Water* accepted a \$2,000.00 contribution from *Aquarion Company PAC*.
4. The associated business entity itself, the Aquarion Company, did not make the contribution at issue directly to *Vote Yes for Clean Drinking Water*.
5. Based on her understanding that the business entity made a direct contribution, the Complainant claims that the contribution was impermissible under General Statutes § 9-620 (c), which provides:

No person, *other than an individual or a committee*, shall make a contribution to a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question, or to any other person, to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question, in excess of ten cents for each individual residing in the state or political subdivision thereof in which such referendum question is to be voted upon, in accordance with the last federal decennial census. [Emphasis added.]

6. General Statutes § 9-620 (c) clearly excludes committees from its restrictions. Accordingly, specific information regarding the census figures is immaterial.
7. Based on the above, the Commission concludes that the treasurer of *Vote Yes for Clean Drinking Water* did not violate General Statutes § 9-620 (c) as alleged.
8. The applicable contribution limit may be found in General Statutes § 9-613 (e), which provides:

No political committee organized by a business entity shall make a contribution or contributions to (1) a state central committee of a political party, in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in any calendar year, (2) a town committee of any political party, in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars in any calendar year, (3) an exploratory committee in excess of three hundred seventy-five dollars, or (4) *any other kind of political committee, in excess of two thousand dollars in any calendar year.* [Emphasis added.]

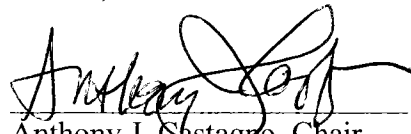
9. The Commission concludes that amount of the contribution at issue does not exceed the limitation imposed by General Statutes § 9-613 (e).

ORDER

The following is ordered on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

That the matter be dismissed.

Adopted this 16th day of October 2013 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Anthony J. Castagno, Chair
By Order of the Commission