

**351—4.53(68A,68B) Express advocacy; in-kind contributions; independent expenditures—definitions.** For the purposes of Iowa Code chapter 68A, the following definitions apply.

**4.53(1) *Express advocacy.*** “Express advocacy” means any communication as defined in Iowa Code section 68A.102(14). “Express advocacy” includes a communication that uses any word, term, phrase, or symbol that exhorts an individual to vote for or against a clearly identified candidate or for the passage or defeat of a clearly identified ballot issue.

**4.53(2) *In-kind contribution.*** “In-kind contribution” means the provision of any good or service to a committee without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and normal charge for such good or service. If a good or service is provided at less than the usual and normal charge, the amount of the in-kind contribution is the difference between the usual and normal charge for the good or service at the time of the contribution and the amount charged the committee. An in-kind contribution also includes any expenditure that meets the definition of a coordinated expenditure in subrule 4.53(4).

**4.53(3) *Independent expenditure.*** “Independent expenditure” means “independent expenditure” as defined in Iowa Code section 68A.404(1).

**4.53(4) *Coordinated expenditure.***

*a.* “Coordinated expenditure” means an expenditure made with the knowledge and approval of a candidate, candidate’s committee, political party committee, or political committee. “Coordinated expenditure” also means that there has been arrangement, coordination, or direction by the candidate, candidate’s committee, political party committee, or political committee, or an agent or officer of the candidate’s committee or a ballot issue committee prior to the procurement or purchase of the good or service, or the publication, distribution, display, or broadcast of an express advocacy communication.

*b.* An expenditure will be presumed to be coordinated when it is:

(1) Based on information provided to the expending person by the candidate, the candidate’s committee, or the ballot issue committee with a view toward having an expenditure made; or

(2) Made by or through any person who is or has been authorized to raise or expend funds; who is or has been an officer of the candidate’s committee or the ballot issue committee; or who is or has been receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the candidate, the candidate’s committee, or the ballot issue committee.

*c.* Pursuant to Iowa Code section 68A.404(7), a person making an independent expenditure shall not engage or retain an advertising firm or consultant that has also been engaged or retained within the prior six months by the candidate, candidate’s committee, or ballot issue PAC that is benefited by the independent expenditure. “Engage or retain” shall not include the purchase of goods or products from an advertising firm or consultant when the advertising firm or consultant does not provide guidance, assistance, or advice to the person making the purchase concerning the good or product.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 68A.404.

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