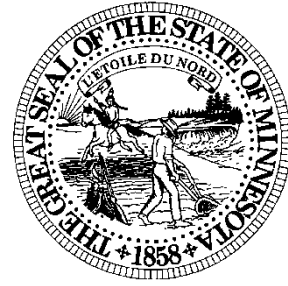


Minnesota

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board



190 Centennial Building . 658 Cedar Street . St. Paul, MN 55155-1603

DATE: September 1, 2011

TO: Candidate's and Candidate's Treasurers
Political Committees and Political Funds
Political Party Units.

FROM: Jeff Sigurdson
Assistant Executive Director

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RE: Use of a Personal Automobile by a Committee Volunteer or Candidate; 2011 Reimbursement Rates

Under a recent statute change a volunteer may use their personal automobile in support of a candidate, political committee, political fund, or political party unit, and the use of the car will not be an in-kind contribution. This treatment of automobile use also applies to use of the candidate's automobile by the candidate.

This statute change does not prevent a committee from reimbursing a volunteer or candidate for the use of their car. Reimbursement remains an option, but if the volunteer or candidate decides to forego reimbursement then the use of the automobile is no longer a reportable transaction.

If reimbursement does occur the use of a personal car should be paid at the 2011 IRS Mileage Rate. There are two reimbursement rates for 2011. For the period of January 1 through June 30, the rate is **51 cents** per mile; for July 1 through December 31, the rate is **55.5 cents** per mile. A candidate's committee will report a reimbursement as either campaign expenditure or a non-campaign disbursement depending on the activity for which the automobile was used. The following table outlines the appropriate reporting of a reimbursement for use of a personal car.

Purpose of Reimbursement	Report the amount as:
1. To reimburse candidates and volunteers engaged in campaign activities.	Campaign expenditure
2. To reimburse incumbents engaged in activities related to constituent services.*	Non-campaign disbursement
3. If the candidate or volunteers prefer not to be reimbursed for mileage.	Do not report the use of the car.

* If the incumbent is reimbursed for mileage by the legislature, the campaign committee must not reimburse for the same mileage.

A political party unit, political committee, or political fund should report a reimbursement to a volunteer or staff as a general expenditure.