Minnesota Gambling Control Board

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Frequently Asked Questions about Raffles, Lawful Gambling, and Political Campaign Financing

May we conduct a raffle as a fundraiser for our political campaign?
No. Only nonprofit organizations may conduct raffles.

- Nonprofit organizations which are eligible to conduct raffles are fraternal (not a college or high school fraternity or sorority), religious, veterans, or other nonprofit organization.
- A nonprofit organization must be registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State or have received nonprofit designation from the IRS.

When is a drawing considered a raffle?
The determining factor in whether an activity is a raffle or a drawing is whether the participants must provide consideration (do or give something of value) to enter.

- If consideration is required, it's a raffle.
- If not, it's a drawing.

May we request a donation of gambling funds for our political campaign from organizations that conduct raffles or other forms of lawful gambling (pull-tabs, tipboards, bingo, or paddlewheels)?
No. See next question.

Why can't gambling funds be spent for political purposes?
It's the law. Minnesota Statutes, chapter 349.12, subdivision 25(b) restricts gambling funds from being spent for:

(1) the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate for public office or for the purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question; or
(2) any activity intended to influence an election or a governmental decision-making process.

Therefore, nonprofit organizations which conduct raffles and other forms of lawful gambling may not contribute gambling funds to political campaigns or fundraisers.

Questions?
For addition information, contact the Gambling Control Board at 651-639-4000 or go to www.gcb.state.mn.us.

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