

Fundraisers

Raffles—Lotteries—Games of Skill –vs- Chance

Political Campaigns

A raffle, lottery or “game of chance” event is the act of paying for a chance to win a prize and is a prohibited act. A candidate or political committee may not hold ANY type of raffle at a fundraiser. (*See* sections 849.09 and 849.0935, Florida Statutes.) Below are common scenarios in which some guidance can be provided for candidates and political committees.

PROHIBITED:

A candidate or political committee may not give away a prize at a fundraiser where the persons attending have purchased tickets or paid to attend the fundraiser—this is a lottery/raffle situation because: “Purchase a ticket or pay the attendance fee and you will be eligible for or receive a prize.”

Prohibited classic-lottery raffle scenario: a 50/50 raffle or designating a portion of a ticket purchase or entry fee as part of a cash prize awarded in a drawing.

Games of chance where prizes are awarded: for example, making a contribution (paying for the opportunity) to toss dice until a pre-determined number is attained.

PERMISSIBLE

Fundraiser without a purchase requirement: In this scenario, individuals merely attend the fundraiser. Prize(s) are available to ANYONE in attendance at the fundraiser and the person does not have to pay to attend the fundraiser or contribute to the campaign in order to be eligible for a prize. The act of contributing to a campaign, purchasing a ticket, or paying to attend may not be used to determine an individual’s eligibility for a prize. For example, ANYONE present (invited or not) can sign-up or obtain a ticket to be eligible for a prize, regardless of whether the person contributes to the candidate or political committee’s campaign.

Games of skill, *not games of chance*. The act of paying an entry fee to participate in a “game of skill” such as a “golf-putting” contest is not a prohibited lottery. Report the “entry fee” as a contribution to the campaign.

DISCLOSURE

The candidate or political committee must disclose all prizes provided in-kind for the fundraiser. Report all prizes contributed in-kind, by a “person” (individual or entity), as defined in Section 106.011(14) Florida Statutes. Report items as in-kind contributions and describe as “fundraiser gift donations” on the campaign treasurer’s report. The contribution limits in Section 106.08 Florida Statutes apply.