

Hearing Outcome

After considering the complaint, the Fair Campaign Practices Committee may:

- Reject the complaint as baseless
- Ask for more information
- Request the candidate or organization cease and desist from such action
- Publicly criticize
- Censure the candidate or organization

If a complaint is found groundless, the committee will issue a public statement of determination at the request of any person. Notification of cease and desist, public criticism, and censure are reported to the media to keep the community apprised. A formal complaint also may be filed with the Florida Elections Commission.

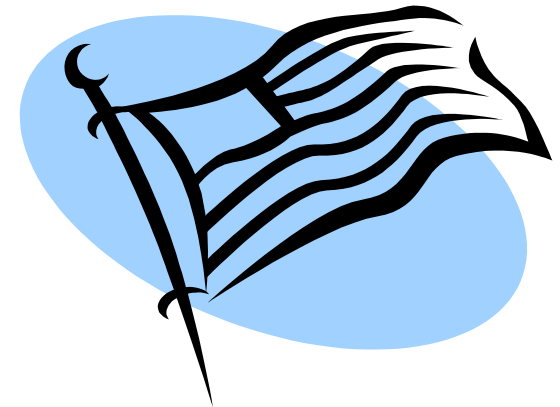
STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

Every candidate in Broward County is asked to voluntarily sign the Statement of Ethical Campaign Practices.

“I believe that political issues can be freely debated without appealing to racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, or other prejudices. I recognize that such negative appeals serve only to divide this community and create long-term moral, social, and economic problems.”

The Statement of Ethical Campaign Practices defines ten activities including: making race, color, religion, gender, national origin, physical disability or sexual orientation of candidates or their opponents an issue; questioning an opponent’s patriotism; utilizing anonymous campaign literature; allowing negative activities by supporters; and using false, distorted or misrepresented facts, accusation or innuendoes.

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES COMMITTEE



Fair Campaign Practices Committee Of Broward County

1051 SE 3rd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
Phone: 954-764-8040
Fax: 954-764-8060
www.nsulaw.nova.edu/fcpc
faircampaigns@yahoo.com

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES COMMITTEE safeguards the integrity of election campaigns in Broward County

Fair Campaign Practices Committee of Broward County, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 2000 to serve as a watchdog for the Broward County Commission's *Standards of Ethical Campaign Practices*. The committee is composed of approximately 20 Broward leaders who were selected by:

- Recommendations by nonpartisan community organizations including: League of Women Voters, Broward Alliance, The Urban League, Hispanic Unity, the Broward Bar Association and others.
- Nomination by the committee as a community representative. No elected official currently in office is eligible.
- County chairs of the Democratic and Republican parties, who serve as ex officio members.

The goals of the organization are to encourage honest, ethical, political campaigns, and to inform the public of those that violate the county's statement of Ethical Campaign Practices. The committee fulfills its mission by investigating complaints of wrongdoing by candidates, political parties and organizations.

Filing a Complaint

A Broward County resident may file a complaint against a candidate running for any office in the county. The complaint must:

- Be written and signed by a Broward County registered voter. No anonymous complaints will be considered.
- Contain the complainant's street address (no post office boxes), precinct number, and telephone number.

Proof of a violation with clear and convincing evidence is the responsibility of the complainant. Multiple complaints for the same conduct are treated as one issue. Previous complaints are not reconsidered.

Complaints should be filed with:

- Fair Campaign Practices chair via fax::
954-630-9050
- Mail or hand deliver to:
Broward Bar Association
1051 SE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Committee Hearing

To ensure that a complaint is a substantive violation of the code, the committee's officers meet and determine whether there is probable cause and adequate supporting documentation. If it is determined minor, unintentional or unsubstantiated, the complaint is dismissed.

If probable cause is found, the candidate or organization against whom the complaint is filed is notified. A written response is requested and a hearing scheduled. The complainant, members of the Fair Campaign Practices Committee and the media are notified. All hearings and meetings by the entire committee are open to the public.

Fair Campaign Practices Committee members who endorse or contribute to a political campaign may not participate in any deliberations concerning that candidate or the candidate's opponents. If a committee member donates to a political party, the donor may participate in all hearings unless the party itself is the subject of a complaint.

