

Basic FEC Guidelines for Meetup Groups

This applies to grassroots efforts and NOT efforts that directly benefit the official campaign.

INDIVIDUAL EXPENDITURES¹

Any individual can spend unlimited amounts on independent expenditures², but there cannot be any group involvement with funding such expenditures.

Can I buy supplies (e.g. yard signs, buttons, etc.)?

YES

Can I spend more than \$250?

YES, but in any calendar year where you spend more than \$250, you must file Form 5 with the FEC³.

Can I sell supplies and receive money for them (e.g. a person willing to buy a yard sign pays \$5 for the sign)?

YES, but it would then be considered a group expenditure (see second column).

Can I spend over \$1000 in a calendar year?

YES, but you must file Form 5 with the FEC

Does money spent in a grassroots group apply to my total \$2,300 donation limit to the official campaign?

NO, only donations directly to the campaign and expenditures reported as in-kind contributions count toward your \$2300 limit.

GROUP EXPENDITURES

If you pool money for an independent expenditure or collect money for reimbursement, it is a group expenditure.

Can our Meetup Group pool our money to buy supplies?

YES, but if you raise or spend over \$250 per calendar year, you must file Form 5 with the FEC.

Can our Meetup Group spend more than \$250?

YES, but in any calendar year where you spend more than \$250, you must file Form 5 with the FEC.

Can our Meetup Group sell supplies and receive money for them (e.g. a person willing to buy a yard sign pays \$5 for the sign)?

YES, as long as there is no profit involved (i.e. the sum total collected is equal or less than the total amount expended).

Can our Meetup Group raise or spend over \$1000 as a group in a calendar year?

YES, however, you would then be required to file as a Political Action Committee (not recommended for Meetup Groups)!! Staying under the \$1000 limit avoids extra red tape.

Does money spent in our Meetup Group apply to my total \$2,300 donation limit to the official campaign?

NO, only donations directly to the campaign and expenditures reported as in-kind contributions count toward your \$2300 limit.

¹ Individual expenditure -- expenditure by one person as opposed to a group

² Independent expenditure -- expenditure not made in collaboration with the official campaign

³ <http://www.fec.gov/pdf/forms/fecfrm5.pdf>

If you have additional questions, please call 202.694.1000 or 800.424.9530 to speak with an FEC representative.