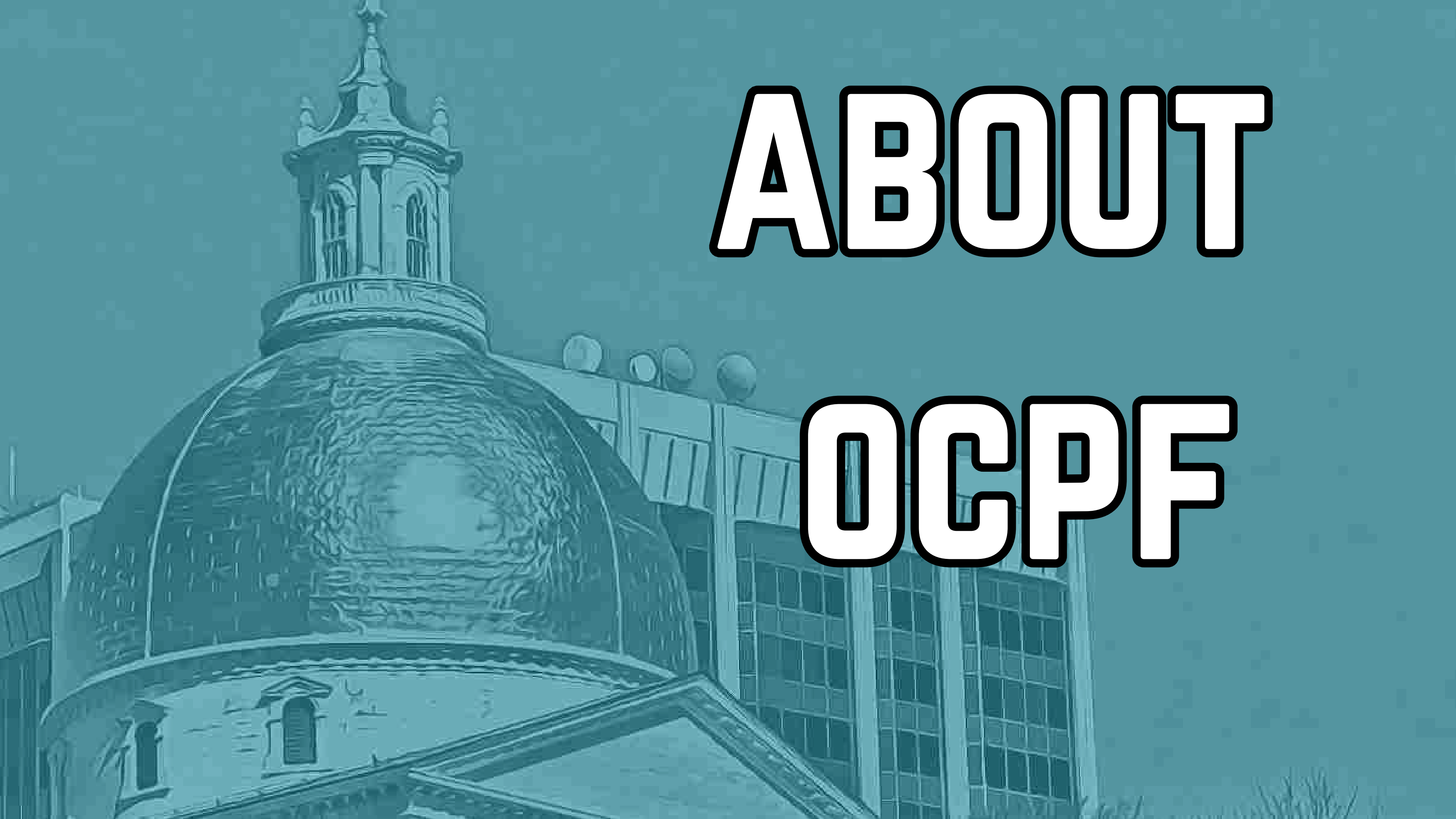




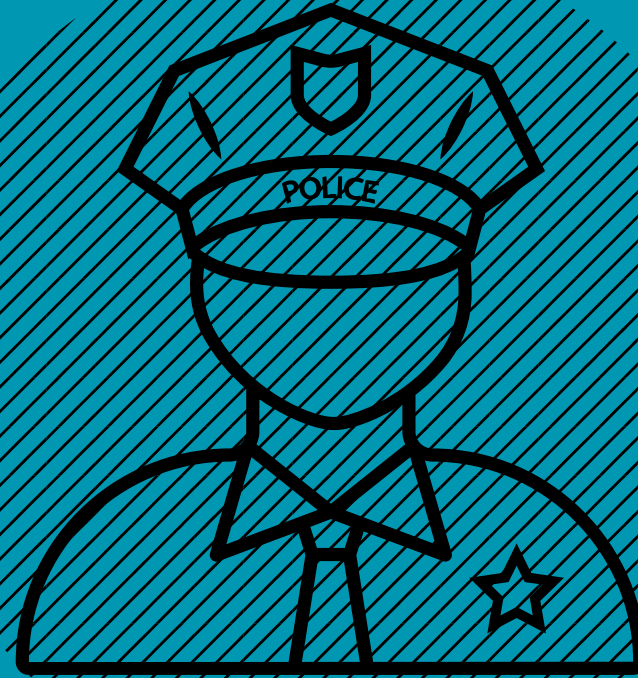
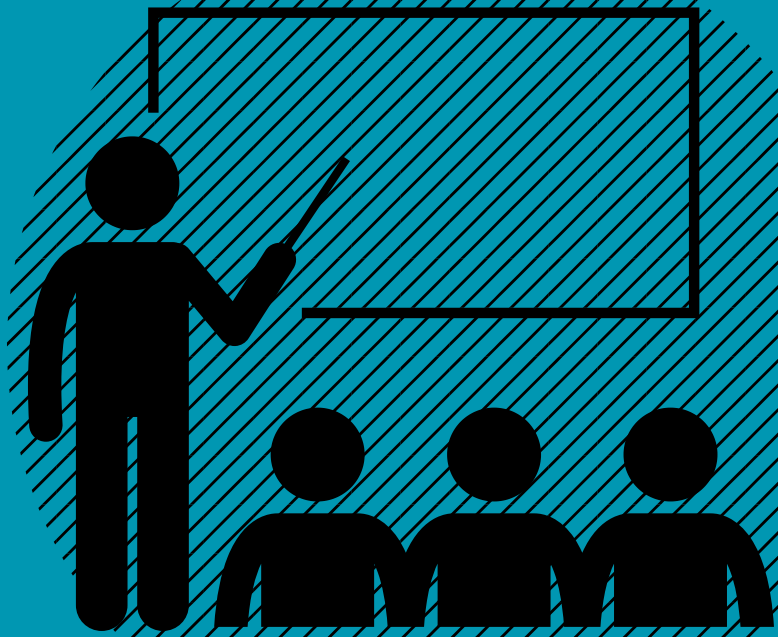
**PUBLIC RESOURCES
BALLOT QUESTIONS
AND THE CAMPAIGN
FINANCE LAW**





ABOUT

OCCPF



APPOINTED AND COMPENSATED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

MAY NOT SOLICIT OR RECEIVE FUNDS FOR ANY
POLITICAL PURPOSE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY





**FUNDRAISING IN
BUILDINGS USED
FOR GOVERNMENTAL
PURPOSES IS
PROHIBITED**



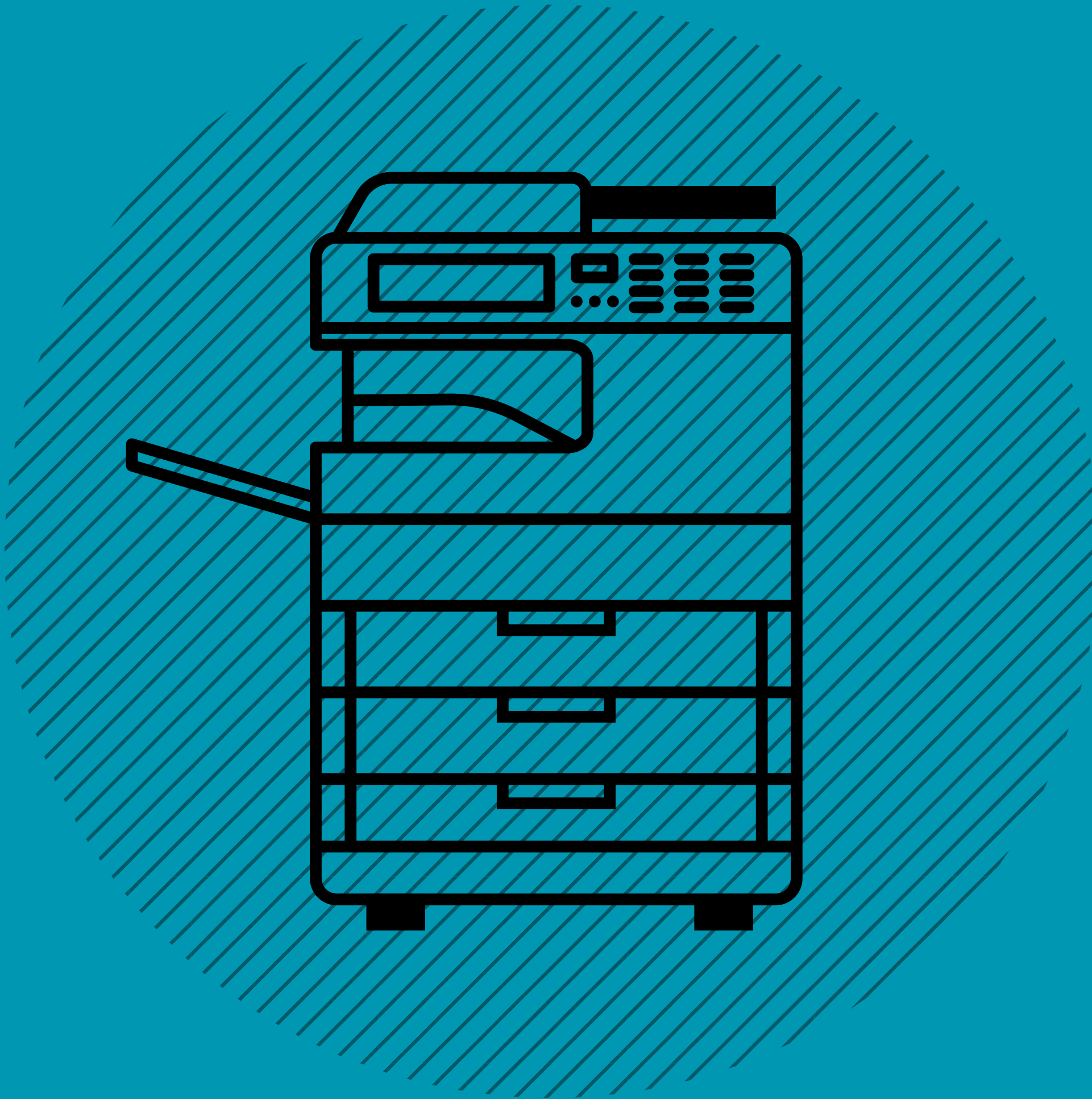
1978

THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT DECIDED:

“THE LEGISLATURE MAY DECIDE, AS IT HAS, THAT FAIRNESS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS IS BEST ACHIEVED BY A DIRECTION THAT POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE MAINTAIN A ‘HANDS OFF’ POLICY.”

PUBLIC RESOURCES

- **THE ANDERSON DECISION**
- **CH. 55, S. 22A**
- **CH. 53, S. 18B**



PUBLIC RESOURCES

USUALLY INVOLVE

DISTRIBUTION

- **UNSOLICITED**
- **PUBLIC FUNDS**
- **ELECTION ISSUE**

WHAT ARE GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES?

**ANYTHING PAID FOR BY THE TAXPAYERS
(PERSONNEL, PAPER, SUPPLIES, MEETING ROOMS,
COPIERS, COMPUTERS, TELEPHONES, E-MAIL,
AUTOMOBILES, BULK MAIL PERMIT)**

TIME OUT!

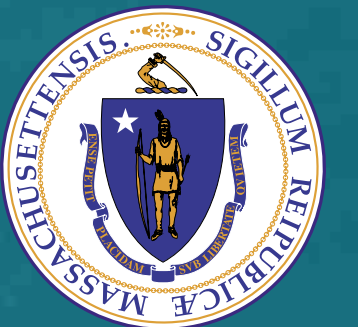


WHAT ABOUT TOWN MEETING?

COMMON APPLICATIONS

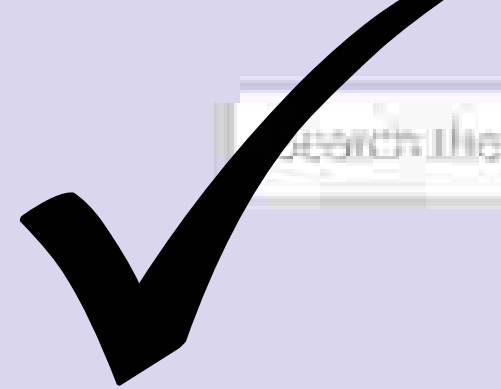
- **MASS MAILINGS**
- **DISTRIBUTION VIA STUDENT BACKPACKS**
- **E-MAIL**
- **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**IS IT EVER OK
TO DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION
(EVEN OBJECTIVE
INFORMATION)
ABOUT A BALLOT QUESTION?**



SECTION 18B

OBJECTIVE INFORMATION



GENERAL LAWS

Chapter Section

Part I

- [Title I](#)
- [Title II](#)
- [Title III](#)
- [Title IV](#)
- [Title V](#)
- [Title VI](#)
- [Title VII](#)
- [Title VIII](#)**

- [Chapter 50](#)
- [Chapter 51](#)
- [Chapter 52](#)
- [Chapter 53](#)**

- [Section 1](#)
- [Section 2](#)
- [Section 3](#)

Section 18B: Information relating to questions on city, town or district ballot; contents; written arguments by principal proponents and opponents; public inspection

Section 18B (a) As used in this section "governing body" shall mean, in a city, the city council or board of aldermen acting with the approval of the mayor subject to the charter of the city, in a town having a town council, the town council, in every other town, the board of selectmen and in a district as provided in sections 113 to 119, inclusive, of chapter 41, the prudential committee, if any, otherwise the commissioners of the district.

(b) The governing body of a city, town or district which accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 shall print information relating to each question that shall appear on the city, town or district ballot. The information shall include: (1) the full text of each question, (2) a fair and concise summary of each question, including a 1 sentence statement describing the effect of a yes or no vote, which shall be prepared by the city solicitor, town counsel or counsel for the city, town or district, and (3) arguments for and against each question as provided in subsections (d) and (e). Not later than 7 days before an election at which the question shall be submitted to the voters in a city, town or district, the information in this subsection shall be sent to each household wherein a person whose name appears on the current voting list for the city, town or district resides.

(c) Not later than the day following the date of the determination that a question shall appear on the ballot in an election, the governing body shall provide written notification to the city solicitor or town or district counsel and to the city or town clerk.

(d) Not later than 7 days after the determination that a question shall appear on the ballot, the city solicitor or town or district counsel, as applicable, shall seek written arguments from the principal proponents and opponents of the question. For the purposes of this section, the principal proponents and opponents of a question shall be those persons determined by the solicitor or counsel to be best able to present the arguments for and against the



OTHER PERMISSIBLE

DISTRIBUTIONS:

- **REQUESTED BY THE PUBLIC**
- **NOTIFICATION OF AN UPCOMING ELECTION (RESTRICTED TO TIME, DATE AND PLACE, AND A BRIEF NEUTRAL TITLE)**

NOTE: CONTACT ETHICS



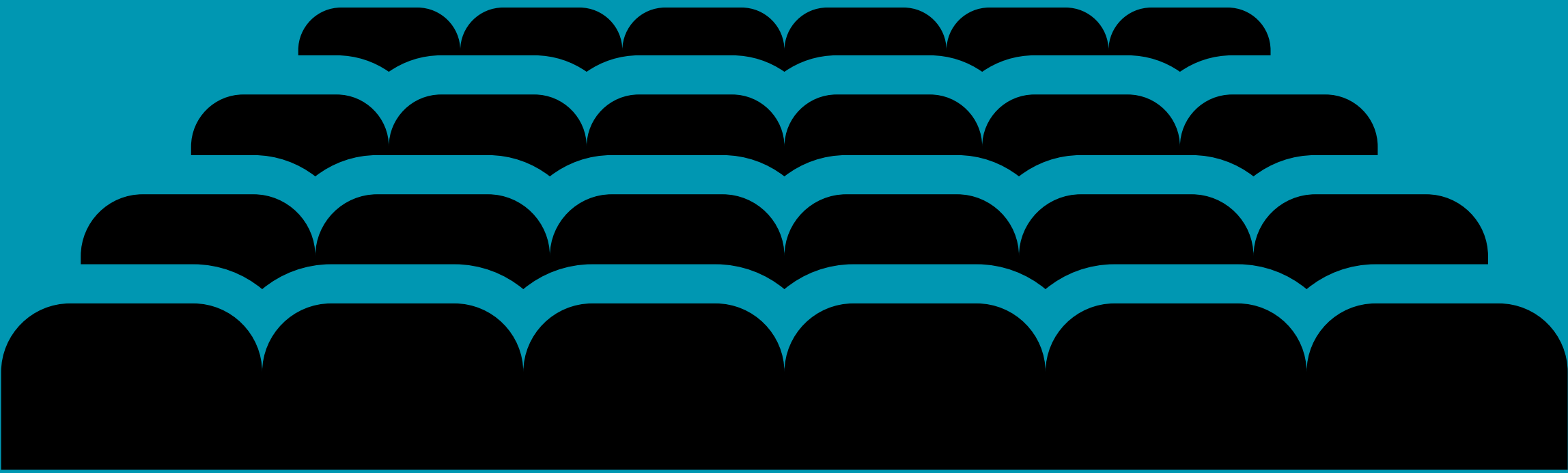
PERMISSIBLE ACTIONS OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

- **TAKE A POSITION ON A QUESTION**
- **PREPARE MATERIALS IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES**
- **HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS**
- **SPEAK TO THE PRESS**
- **WORK WITH A BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE ON THEIR OWN TIME**



**AVERAGE
PROPERTY BILL
WILL INCREASE BY
\$300**

**AT PUBLIC MEETINGS,
SPEECH IS
UNRESTRICTED AND
MATERIALS CAN BE
DISTRIBUTED TO
DISCUSS A BALLOT
QUESTION**



USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

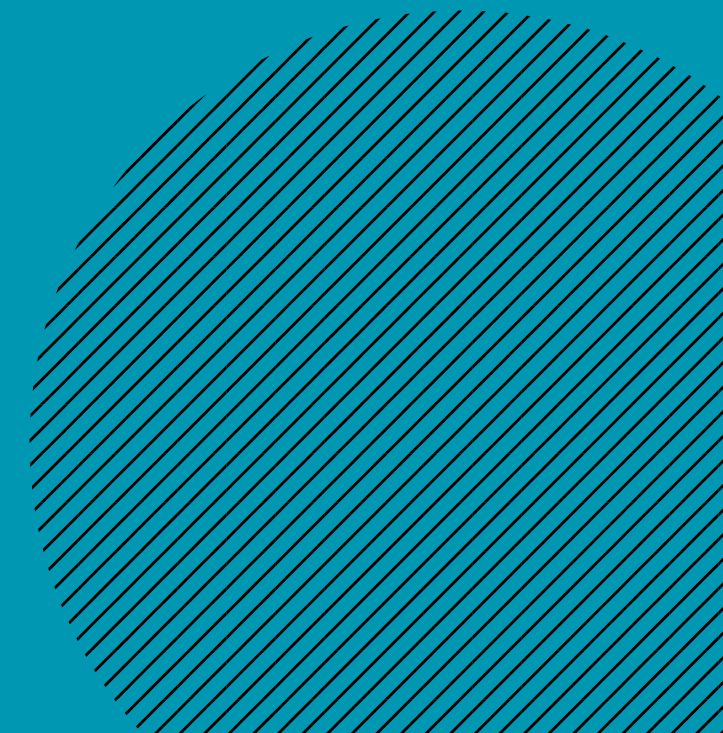
**POLITICAL USE OF
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES
IS IMPROPER, UNLESS
EACH SIDE IS GIVEN
EQUAL ACCESS**





**BALLOT QUESTION DOCUMENTS
AND INFORMATION MAY BE
POSTED TO MUNICIPAL
WEBSITES**

**CANNOT TAKE ON THE
APPEARANCE OF A
CAMPAIGN WEBSITE**

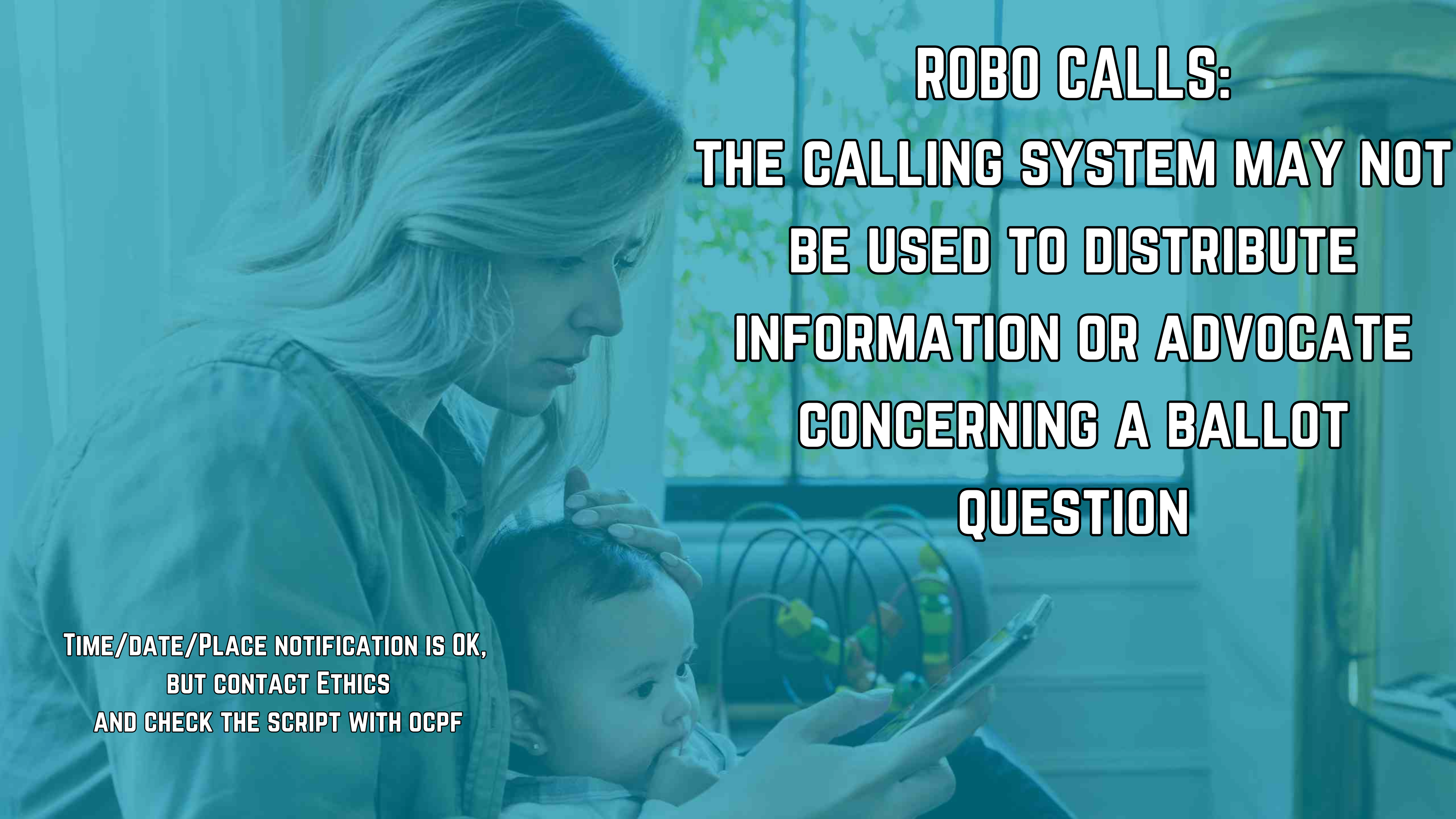


**GOVERNMENTAL
AGENCIES MAY POST
INFORMATION RELATED
TO A BALLOT QUESTION
ON SOCIAL MEDIA, BUT
CANNOT TAKE ON THE
APPEARANCE OF A
CAMPAIGN POST**

**POSTING TO A WEBSITE
OR SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORM IS NOT
DISTRIBUTION. IT'S
SIMILAR TO POSTING
INFORMATION ON A
BULLETIN BOARD.**

**GOVERNMENT E-MAIL MAY
NOT BE USED TO SEND
INFORMATION ABOUT
BALLOT QUESTIONS**



A woman with blonde hair is shown in profile, looking down at a smartphone she is holding. She is holding a baby in her arms. The background is a window with greenery outside. The entire image has a blue tint.

**ROBO CALLS:
THE CALLING SYSTEM MAY NOT
BE USED TO DISTRIBUTE
INFORMATION OR ADVOCATE
CONCERNING A BALLOT
QUESTION**

**TIME/DATE/PLACE NOTIFICATION IS OK,
BUT CONTACT ETHICS
AND CHECK THE SCRIPT WITH OCPF**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Form CPF M 102: Campaign Finance Report Municipal Form

Office of Campaign and Political Finance

File with: City or Town Clerk or Election Commission

Fill in Reporting Period dates: Beginning Date: 1/1/2026 Ending Date: 4/4/2026

Type of Report: (Check one)

- 8th day preceding preliminary
 8th day preceding election
 30 day after election
 year-end report
 dissolution

Candidate Full Name (if applicable):

Office Sought and District:

Residential Address:

E-mail:

Phone #:

VOTE YES ON THE NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Committee Name:

Mary Smith

Name of Committee Treasurer:

3333 Main Street

Committee Mailing Address:

E-mail: voteyes@gmail.com

Phone #: 111-222-3333

SUMMARY BALANCE INFORMATION:

Line 1: Ending Balance from previous report

0

Line 2: Total receipts this period (page 3, line 12)

\$10,000

Line 3: Subtotal (line 1 plus line 2)

\$10,000

Line 4: Total expenditures this period (page 5, line 15)

\$9,000

Line 5: Ending Balance (line 3 minus line 4)

\$1,000

BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEES