

DATE: June 26, 1987

TO: Charles G. Abdelnour, City Clerk
FROM: City Attorney
SUBJECT: Designation of Candidates Occupation

By memorandum of June 22, 1987, you requested an expedited response to the question of whether the designation of a candidate's title on the ballot may include the name of his employer.

Section 27.2201 is explicit in limiting the designation on the ballot to a candidate's "principal profession, vocation or occupation ..." and does not permit a designation which would suggest an evaluation. While former Assistant City Attorney Robert S. Teaze has written extensively on the limitations of this section in the attached memoranda of law, we have found no previous mention of this question.

The purpose of Section 27.2201, like that of its companion Elections Code section 10211, is to inform the electorate by means of an accurate designation of one's occupation.

As our August 27, 1973 Memorandum of Law pointed out, profession, vocation and occupation all deal with an activity. To include the name of the employer neither qualifies nor modifies the activity of the individual. A congressional aide is an occupational designation for an activity and would similarly accurately designate the activities of all congressional aides irrespective of the particular congressman by whom one is employed.

Since the language of the ordinance specifies designation of principal profession, vocation or occupation, it is clearly limited to a designation of employment and not employer.

JOHN W. WITT, City Attorney

By

Ted Bromfield

Chief Deputy City Attorney

TB:js:930(x043.2)

Enclosure

ML-87-69