

October 27, 2011

NYC Campaign Finance Board
40 Rector Street, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10006

Dear Campaign Finance Board:

As a New York City Station Agent, I serve the members of the public by selling metrocards, giving directions, and assisting customers who have lost family members or property or who are the victims of crime. Last year, nearly 500 of my union brothers and sisters, also Station Agents, were laid off because State legislators took \$260 million dollars of dedicated transit funding away from the MTA. My union worked with me and other union members to organize a political response to these terrible cuts, which resulted in many closed token booths throughout the system and the elimination of two subway lines. Under new campaign rules you are proposing, Local 100 would no longer be able to educate me as to which politicians support, and which oppose, the diversion of public transit funds. My understanding is that the new campaign finance rules are supposed to prevent undue influence by the wealthy in political campaigns. This is very different from preventing those who I personally entrust my dues money to communicate with me about something critically important to me – whether I have a job or not and who supports my ability to work as an MTA employee who depends on public funding. Please reconsider your proposed rules when it comes to the right of unions to communicate with their members.

Sincerely,

Arthur Clements
NYCTA Station Agent
Member of TWU Local 100

TWU Local 100
1700 Broadway, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10019