

Statement from Nichole Cochran, Spokesperson for the Office of the Governor, by e-mail to reporters on June 2, 2008:

We can confirm that the Department of Administration received the reimbursement check to the state general fund on May 23, 2008.

Once our office started looking into records surrounding this auction reception it was determined that the policy in place for reimbursement on political events was not followed due to staff turnover and the length of time between the purchase of the auction item (September, 2005) and the date the reception was scheduled (April, 2007).

After we verified the amount of funds the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus still owed the state, we contacted their organization and they issued a check to reimburse the funds.

Our office is in the process of verifying all past events political in nature have been reimbursed. At this time we've not found any other political events that were not reimbursed appropriately, but our legal counsel's office is in the process of working with the Department of Administration and Cedar Crest staff to verify that all political events were properly handled. An additional staff person will also be involved in reviewing the billing for these type events to prevent this from occurring in the future.