What spending is regulated? | Electoral Commission Non-party campaigners: Where to start You are in the Non-party campaigners: Where to start section Home Non-party campaigners: Where to start View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Where to start What are the rules for non-party campaigners? Elections Act 2022: Changes for non-party campaigners overview Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners Elections Act 2022: New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and organisations Elections Act 2022: New notification threshold How to notify us to register as a non-party campaigner Elections Act 2022: Reporting threshold Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE What spending is regulated? Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test? Purpose test: Intention Purpose test: Campaigning on an issue What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party? Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election Staff costs and other overheads Joint campaigning What spending is regulated? If you spend money on one of the five activities during a regulated period, you need to apply two tests to your spending to decide if it is regulated: the purpose test the public test For your spending to be regulated, it must meet the purpose test. In addition, for three types of activity, the public test must also be met. The purpose test The purpose test is met if your activity can reasonably be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against: one or more political parties political parties or candidates that support or do not support particular policies other categories of candidates, for example, candidates who went to a state school, or independent candidates (who are not standing in the name of a political party) This test applies to any of the five campaign activities. The public test The public test is met if your activity is aimed at the public or a section of the public. Your members and committed supporters do not count as members of the public. This test applies to: election material canvassing and market research public rallies or public events For more details on the public test, please see pages 7-8 of Overview of regulated nonparty campaigning It is important that you think carefully when applying the tests for regulated spending, because there are electoral offences linked to failing to follow the rules. Most of the rest of this guidance document focuses on how to apply the purpose test to your campaign activities. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for What spending is regulated? Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test?