

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 12, 2012

Use of Tablet Computers Under Interpretative Ruling 444

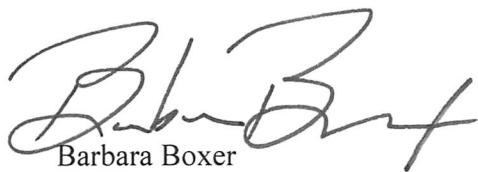
Dear Colleague:

The Select Committee on Ethics and the Committee on Rules and Administration are issuing this joint letter to clarify that tablet computers, such as iPads or other similar devices, may be purchased with funds from a Senator's principal campaign committee and used by Members and employees on a Member's personal office staff for both official and campaign purposes. This clarification is intended to provide Senate Members and employees with the convenience of using a single handheld communications device for multiple purposes (*i.e.*, official and campaign), at no cost to the taxpayer, without unduly intruding upon the Senate's role in providing equipment for Senate duties, and is consistent with Interpretative Ruling 444, issued on February 14, 2002 ("IR 444"). See *Senate Ethics Manual*, at 297-302.

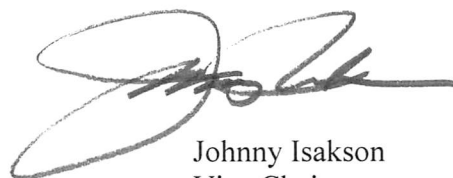
As with any other handheld communications device, the purchase, maintenance, repair, operation, and use of a multi-purpose handheld communications device and its associated information technology service must be paid with funds of a Senator's principal campaign committee, and no appropriated Senate funds may be used for these purposes either directly or to reimburse the campaign committee. An "associated information technology service" means the communications network access used by the device, whether such access is provided by satellite, microwave, or other means.

This clarification does not alter any Senate policy involving restrictions on the use of handheld communications devices, including the Senate policy prohibiting the use of electronic devices on the Senate floor. Senate Members and employees are also reminded to exercise special care to avoid disclosure of confidential information related to the performance of Senate duties, as such devices will operate outside the protective firewall of the Senate Computer Center so that confidentiality and security are not assured.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Select Committee on Ethics



Johnny Isakson
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on Ethics



Charles E. Schumer
Chairman
Committee on Rules and
Administration



Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules and
Administration