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# State elections board knocks Foxx on Preckwinkle poll



Cook County State's Attorney candidate Kim Foxx meets with the Chicago Tribune editorial board on Feb. 4, 2016. (Phil Velasquez / Chicago Tribune)

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**C**ook County state's attorney challenger Kim Foxx's campaign violated state election law by failing to disclose that County Board President [Toni Preckwinkle](#)'s political fund paid \$25,000 for a poll last year, state election officials ruled Wednesday.

The unanimous decision by the Illinois State Board of Elections could result in fines against Foxx's campaign fund.

The complaint was filed by State's Attorney [Anita Alvarez](#)'s campaign election lawyer. The campaign of Alvarez, who is in an increasingly bitter battle with Foxx and attorney Donna More for the Democratic nomination, hailed the ruling.

"The state's attorney enforces the laws and prosecutes people who don't comply with the law and here we have the person who wants to be the state's attorney and the head of the County Board not complying with the law," said election attorney Burt Odelson, who is working for Alvarez's campaign.

Alvarez, who is seeking a third term, repeatedly has tried to portray Foxx as a political insider. Foxx worked as chief of staff for Preckwinkle, who helped her win endorsement by the county Democratic Party.

Foxx spokesman Robert Foley said the campaign disagreed with the ruling and described it as an effort by Alvarez to "distract from her record."

Nevertheless, Foxx will not appeal, Foley said. Indeed, campaign filings Wednesday afternoon showed that the Friends of Foxx campaign fund already had reported the \$25,000 poll as an in-kind contribution.

Foxx was working for Preckwinkle when the County Board chairman's political fund paid for the poll in February 2015. The poll attempted to assess how viable of a candidate Foxx was versus Alvarez.

At the time, Foxx hadn't filed to be a candidate. But the state election board ruled that once the poll was conducted on Foxx's behalf, Foxx should have filed to be a candidate and should have reported the \$25,000 poll as an "in-kind contribution" from Preckwinkle because "Kim Foxx was aware of the poll, and participated by providing information" for the poll, according to the board's ruling.

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