

The La Crosse County Ethics Board rules that county administrator Steve O'Malley did not violate ethics rules when he campaigned for a referendum on a city administrator for La Crosse.

The decision came late Friday afternoon, following a two-hour hearing. Ethics board members say O'Malley had the support of the La Crosse County Board and did not personally profit from his activities to get a city administrator elected. The referendum was defeated in April. The board ruled that citizens who filed the complaint did not show clear proof that O'Malley broke any rules. The complaint suggested that any political activity done by O'Malley on county time was outside of his job description.