

FACT SHEET FOR THE TRADITIONAL FINANCING PROGRAM DURING THE 2020 ELECTION CYCLE

Contact us

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Background

The Office of Campaign Finance (OCF), is established within the D.C. Board of Elections and administers and enforces the District laws pertaining to campaign finance operations and the constituent service and statehood fund programs. The primary objective of the Office of Campaign Finance is to obtain voluntary compliance with the Act.

To achieve this goal, the OCF provides an extensive public information and education service for persons subject to the Act, thereby increasing OCF's public disclosure capabilities. The Director of Campaign Finance is committed to the delivery of an active outreach program which educates and provides information to candidates, committees, public officials, and the public.

Getting Started

- ▶ All financial reports filed under the Campaign Finance Act must be submitted online, except where actual hardship in complying is demonstrated.
- ▶ An individual must file a Statement of Candidacy form with the Office of Campaign Finance within 5 days of becoming a candidate.
- ▶ A Principal Campaign Committee must file a Statement of Organization within 10 days of designation by a candidate on the Statement of Candidacy form.
- ▶ A candidate for public office in the District of Columbia must attend a training program in person before the Office of Campaign Finance concerning the reporting requirements within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date on which the Statement of Candidacy form is filed, or as otherwise scheduled by the Agency.
- ▶ The treasurer of each political committee, political action committee, and independent expenditure committee must attend an in-person training with the Office of Campaign Finance concerning the reporting requirements of the Campaign Finance Act within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the Statement of Organization form has been filed with the Agency, or as otherwise scheduled by the Agency.
- ▶ All political committees, political action committees, and independent expenditure committees must register with the Office of Campaign Finance and file a Statement of Organization form within ten (10) days of organization or designation.
- ▶ A candidate for Member of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is not required to register with the OCF, but the candidate must file online at the OCF website the Summary Financial Statement of Candidate for the Office of Member of an ANC, within 60 days of the certification of results of the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Contribution Limits

- ▶ No person, including a business contributor, may make any contribution, and no person shall receive any contribution from any other person, which when aggregated with all other contributions received from that person relating to a campaign for nomination or election to public office, including both the primary and general election or special elections, exceed the contribution limits per elective office as follows:

- \$2,000 for Mayor;
 - \$1,500 for Attorney General;
 - \$1,500 for Chairman of the Council;
 - \$1,000 for a Member of the Council at-large;
 - \$500 for a Member of the Council elected from a ward;
 - \$500 for a Member of the State Board of Education at-large;
 - \$200 for a Member of the Board of Education elected from a ward;
 - \$25 for a Member of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission
- ▶ No person may make contributions to any one political committee or political action committee in any one election, including primary and general elections, but excluding special elections, that in the aggregate exceed \$5,000. This contribution limit also applies during nonelection years.
- ▶ There are no limits to what candidates may contribute (or loan) financially to their own campaigns as long as candidates use their own money, report the contributions made from personal funds, and maintain documentation of the source of the funds contributed for record keeping purposes.
- ▶ There are no monetary limitations placed on expenditures.

Business Contributions

A business entity may make contributions to candidates for public office in the District of Columbia; provided a business entity who makes a contribution and all of its affiliated entities are considered a "business contributor" for purposes of the contribution

limits, and share a single contribution limit. The contribution of each business contributor must also disclose the identities of the contributor's affiliated entities that have also contributed to the candidate or committee; and be accompanied by an affidavit.

Independent Expenditures

An independent expenditure is the expenditure of funds that is made for the purpose of promoting or opposing:

- ▶ The nomination or election of a candidate;
- ▶ A political party; or
- ▶ Any initiative, referendum, or recall.

An independent expenditure is not controlled or coordinated with any public official or candidate, or any person acting on behalf of a public official or a candidate. Independent Expenditures in the amount of \$50.00 or more must be reported.

Campaign Literature

All campaign literature must be identified by the words "paid for by" followed by the name and address of the payer or the committee or other person and its treasurer on whose behalf the materials appear. Each committee and candidate must include on the face or front page of all literature and advertisement soliciting funds the following notice: "A copy of our report is filed with the Director of Campaign Finance of the District of Columbia Board of Elections."

Any advertisement supporting or opposing a candidate, initiative, referendum, or recall that is disseminated to the public by a political committee, political action committee, or independent expenditure committee or any other person shall disclose, in the advertisement, the identity of the advertisement's sponsor.

Filing Deadlines (Does not apply to ANC candidates)

- ▶ July 31, 2019
- ▶ December 10, 2019
- ▶ January 31, 2020
- ▶ March 10, 2020
- ▶ May 26, 2020 (8 Day Pre-Primary Election Report; applies only to Primary Election candidates and supporting committees) (Since this day is the legal holiday, Memorial Day, the filing date will fall on May 27, 2020.)
- ▶ June 10, 2020
- ▶ August 10, 2020
- ▶ October 10, 2020
- ▶ October 26, 2020 (8 Day Pre-General Election Report; applies only to General Election candidates and supporting committees)
- ▶ December 10, 2020

**Election Dates: June 2, 2020 (Primary)
November 3, 2020 (General)**