

DC OFFICE
OF
CAMPAIGN FINANCE



VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND DISCLOSURE

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

DC OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

AT A GLANCE. . .

- *Each exploratory committee must include the name of the potential candidate in the name of the committee.*
- *The life of an exploratory committee must not exceed 18 months.*
- *All monies pertaining to any exploratory committee must never inure to the personal funds of any individual, including the named individual of the exploratory committee.*
- *R & E Reports must be electronically filed.*
- *The named individual of an exploratory committee cannot become a candidate in the Fair Elections Program.*

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**EXPLORATORY
COMMITTEES**



THE EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

YOU MUST ORGANIZE AN EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE IF...

Any individual, or group of individuals, who organizes for the purpose of exploring the feasibility of a person's candidacy for an elective office in the District of Columbia, must form an exploratory committee in the name of the potential candidate, which may also be known as a "draft" committee or "testing the waters" committee. The exploratory committee must file a Statement of Organization form within ten (10) days of organizing. Each exploratory committee must have a treasurer and a chairperson. An exploratory committee may conduct activity to determine whether an individual should become a candidate by polling, travel, telephone calls, the media; and, by utilizing office space and paying administrative costs. An exploratory committee may last only 18 months, when it either terminates or the exploratory committee's named individual becomes a candidate. The named individual of an exploratory committee cannot become a candidate in the Fair Elections Program.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Candidates and Treasurers of all Political Committees must complete the mandatory Virtual Entrance Conference Training provided by the Office of Campaign Finance within fifteen (15) calendar days of filing the Statement of Candidacy form or Statement of Acceptance of Position of Treasurer form.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Treasurer of an Exploratory Committee must file a Report of Receipts and Expenditures (R & E Report) on March 10, June 10, August 10, October 10, and December 10 in the seven (7) months preceding the date on which, and in each year during which, an election is held for the office sought, and on the 8th day next preceding the date on which the election is held, and also by January 31st of each year, and on July 31st of each year in which there is no election. The R & E Report must be certified and filed electronically. Individual and aggregate contributions are limited for: Mayor, \$2,000/\$200,000;

Council Chair, \$1,500/\$150,000; At-large Council Member, \$1,000/\$100,000; Ward Council Member or Board of Education President, \$500/\$50,000; and Board of Education Member/\$200/\$20,000.

If the named individual of an exploratory committee becomes a candidate, the individual must file a Statement of Candidacy form, form a principal campaign committee, and apply all contributions received during the life of the exploratory committee to the same contribution limitations for the specific candidacy sought.

SURPLUS FUNDS

Any remaining funds of an exploratory committee must be transferred to an established principal campaign or political committee; or, a charitable organization, which meets the requirements of the tax laws of the District of Columbia