

Candidate Newsletter

PROVIDED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



State Ethics Commission

The SEC is the government agency charged with enforcing the Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act of 1991.

Candidates

As a candidate, you are subject to the Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act of 1991.

Filings

You are required to file both a Statement of Economic Interests and Campaign Disclosures - this Newsletter seeks to help you do that.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURES

When you raise or spend \$500.00, you must file an Initial Campaign Disclosure via our website. After that, you must file a Campaign Disclosure every quarter and a pre-election report. Candidates who do not reach the \$500.00 limit must file an initial campaign disclosure report 15 days before their election.

QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE DUE DATES

First Quarter: April 10
Second Quarter: July 10
Third Quarter: October 10
Fourth Quarter: January 10 of the following year.

Campaign Bank Account

All expenses paid on behalf of a candidate must be drawn from the campaign account. All contributions made to a candidate must be deposited in the campaign account within ten days of receipt.

When accepting a contribution, you may not deposit a contribution until you receive the name and address of the contributor. If you cannot determine the name and address of the contributor within seven days, the contribution must be remitted to the Children's Trust Fund.

Contribution Limits

Per Election Cycle

Statewide office: \$3,500.00

Any other office: \$1,000.00

Note: You may not accept anonymous contributions.

You may contribute an unlimited amount of money to your own campaign.

Please Remember

You may not use public funds, property or time to influence the outcome of your election.

You may not use campaign funds for personal expenses.

You may not use campaign funds for gas - you may, however, pay for mileage. You must keep a mileage log.

If, over a reporting period, you have not received any contributions or reported any expenditures, you must file a statement of inactivity (a campaign disclosure showing no expenditures or contributions).

In-kind contributions (goods/services) must be reported at their fair market value and are subject to contribution limits.

Questions?

If you are a candidate for office and have questions about the Ethics Reform Act, please contact the State Ethics Commission.

If you are running as a candidate for the General Assembly, please contact either the House Ethics Committee or Senate Ethics Committee.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

REQUIRED OF EVERY CANDIDATE

You must create a user login and password on our website to fill out this form. You are required to disclose the source and amount of any public/government income received by you or an immediate family member residing with you. You are also required to fill out the source, but not the amount, of private income received by you or an immediate family member residing with you.

ethics.sc.gov

"One of the most important functions of law aimed at making public servants more accountable is that of complete and effective disclosure. Since many public officials serve on a part-time basis, it is inevitable that conflicts of interest and appearance of impropriety will occur. Often these conflicts are unintentional and slight, but at every turn those who represent the people of this State must be certain that it is the interest of the people, and not their own, that are being served..."

- Preamble of the Ethics Reform Act