



Colorado
Secretary of State

**Campaign and Political
Finance**



Lawn Chair Chat

August 25, 2021

Welcome!

**Topic: OPEN DOOR / MIC
SESSION**



- **What are the upcoming deadlines for reporting?**

The [2021 Filing Calendars](#) are a great resource for upcoming deadlines.

2021

- September 3, 2021 – Starts the 60 day period before the Biennial School Election for Biennial School Electioneering Communications and concludes on November 1, 2021.
- September 7, 2021 - Next report due for those participating in the Biennial School Election
- October 3, 2021 – Starts the 30 day period before the Biennial School Board Election for 24 Hour Major Contributor* and 48 Hour Independent Expenditure** reports and concludes on November 1, 2021.
 - *Applies to Political Parties, Issue Committees, & Candidate Committees whose candidate is on the 2021 Biennial School Election ballot.
 - **Applies to Independent Expenditure Committees.

For committees associated with 2022 Elections

- October 15, 2021 - (Quarterly report) - for State / Statewide jurisdictions
- November 1, 2021 – (Annual report) – for County jurisdictions



- **What are the requirements for the name of a committee?**

Tips:

- The organization's full name, spelling out any acronyms used
- Financial Institution account name must include the name of the committee/party – basically the name on the bank account must match the name on the committee's registration



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- **Do you file an expense report when you have not had an expense or donation yet?**
- **Standalone candidates:** Reports are only required if expenditures/spending occurs. However, you're encouraged to file reports. If a report is required but not filed then penalties are imposed once the report is filed.
- **Committees:** Reports are required whether the committee has or has not had activity.

Note: Special District candidates/candidate committees are NOT required to file reports until they exceed \$200 in activity. 527 Political Organizations that receive no contributions and spend less than \$20 during a reporting period are not required to file a disclosure report for that reporting period.



- **What are the max contributions and cycles for PAC and Small Donor committees?**

A great reference are the Quick Reference tables in the Appendix section of the [Colorado Campaign and Political Finance Manual](#) (starting on page 43).

Note: PAC stands for Political Action Committee and are regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Colorado has Political Committees (PC). The term PAC is often used by others when referring to PCs in Colorado. If you have questions about Federal PACs please contact the FEC at www.fec.gov.

- **Are there any updates to the statutes since 2019?**

There were no legislative changes in 2020 & 2021. In July 2020 there was a [Rules](#) hearing, in August of 2020 Rules were adopted and become effective on September 30, 2020. The most recent Rules are available in the Colorado Campaign and Political Finance manual. The bulk of the Rule updates were related the complaint process (see Rule 23).



- **Why does the system not let me show an expenditure to the candidate when it's reimbursed?**

Let's discuss candidate contributions to their own committee v. reimbursing a candidate for an expenditure.

Keep in mind the following statute:

1-45-108(1)(e), C.R.S. states: A candidate's candidate committee may reimburse the candidate for expenditures the candidate has made on behalf of the candidate committee. Any such expenditures may be reimbursed at any time. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any expenditure reimbursed to the candidate by the candidate's candidate committee within the election cycle during which the expenditure is made shall be treated only as an expenditure and not as a contribution to and an expenditure by the candidate's candidate committee. Notwithstanding the date on which any such expenditure is reimbursed, the expenditure shall be reported at the time it is made in accordance with the requirements of this section.



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Thank You



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