



2010 REGISTRATION MATERIALS FOR TRADITIONALLY FINANCED LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

This packet contains the forms you will need to register with the Commission. Also included is information on some of the responsibilities you have as candidate. We encourage you to call the Commission staff if you have any questions.

COMPLETE THESE FORMS:

Candidate Registration Every candidate must register with the Commission before accepting any campaign contributions or making any campaign expenditures. Please complete and sign the enclosed registration form and return it to the Commission.

Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices (optional) Please review the Code and return the signed form if you want to subscribe. Subscribing to the Code is voluntary and the Commission is not authorized to take action against candidates who violate the Code.

Voluntary Spending Limits Traditionally financed legislative candidates are required to complete the Voluntary Expenditure Limitations form and submit it to the Commission. Agreeing to the spending limits is optional, but you must complete the form and return it to the Commission.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Campaign Bank Account You must keep your campaign funds separate from your personal and business funds. You must set up a separate bank account for your campaign funds to avoid commingling campaign and personal funds.

If you raise general election contributions before the primary election, you will have to set up another account to keep your general election contributions separate from your primary election contributions.

Electronic Filing of Campaign Finance Reports Candidates are required to submit campaign finance reports electronically on the Commission's website. If you are unable to comply with this requirement, you may request a waiver from the Commission and file paper reports. A waiver request form is included in this packet.

Contribution Limits, Recordkeeping, and Reporting Requirements Candidates must comply with the requirements found in Maine election law and Commission rules. The 2010 Candidate Guide has simple descriptions of these requirements. Please request a copy if you have not yet received one. The guide is also found on the Commission's website at: www.maine.gov/ethics/publications. Please contact the Commission with any questions.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Campaign Surplus from Previous Election *Cash from 2006 and earlier elections.* If you have cash remaining from the 2006 election or an earlier election, you must dispose of this surplus cash by December 2010. One way to dispose of this cash is to transfer it to your 2010 campaign.

Cash from 2008 elections. If you have cash remaining from 2008, you have until December 2012 to dispose of it. You may want to transfer this cash to your 2010 campaign rather than waiting until December 2012.

Besides transferring the cash to your campaign, there are additional ways to dispose of the surplus cash as found in 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1017 (8) (see back). Please contact the Commission staff for information on how to dispose or transfer your surplus cash and terminate your previous campaign.

Questions. Many questions can be answered by referring to the Commission's website, www.maine.gov/ethics, or the 2010 Candidate Guide. You can also call the Ethics Commission staff with your questions. Please call 287-4179 and ask for a candidate registrar. Thank you.