

CHAPTER 13
CAMPAIGN REPORTS AND FINANCES

SUBCHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

21A § 1001. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Commission. "Commission" means the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices established under Title 1, section 1002.

2. Election. "Election" means any primary, general or special election for state, county or municipal offices as defined in Title 30-A, section 2502, subsection 1.

3. Person. "Person" means an individual, committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization.

21A § 1002. Meetings of commission

1. Meeting schedule. The commission shall meet in Augusta for the purposes of this chapter at least once per month in any year in which primary and general elections are held and every two weeks in the 60 days preceding an election. In the 28 days preceding an election, the commission shall meet in Augusta within one calendar day of the filing of any complaint or question with the commission. Agenda items in the 28 days preceding an election must be decided within 24 hours of the filing unless all parties involved agree otherwise.

2. Telephone meetings. The commission may hold meetings over the telephone if necessary, as long as the commission provides notice to all affected parties in accordance with the rules of the commission and the commission's office remains open for attendance by complainants, witnesses, the press and other members of the public. Notwithstanding Title 1, chapter 13, telephone meetings of the commission are permitted:

A. During the 28 days prior to an election when the commission is required to meet within 24 hours of the filing of any complaint or question with the commission; or

B. To address procedural or logistical issues before a monthly meeting, such as the scheduling of meetings, deadlines for parties' submission of written materials, setting of meeting agenda, requests to postpone or reschedule agenda items, issuing subpoenas for documents or witnesses and recusal of commission members.

3. Other meetings. The commission shall meet at other times on the call of the Secretary of State, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House or the chair or a majority of the members of the commission, as long as all members are notified of the time, place and purpose of the meeting at least 24 hours in advance.

4. Office hours before election. The commission office must be open with adequate staff resources available to respond to inquiries and receive complaints from 8 a.m. until at least 5:30 p.m. on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday immediately preceding an election, and from 8 a.m. until at least 8 p.m. on election day.

21A § 1003. Investigations by commission

1. Investigations. The commission may undertake audits and investigations to determine the facts concerning the registration of a candidate, treasurer, political committee or political action committee and contributions by or to and expenditures by a person, candidate, treasurer, political committee or political action committee. For this purpose, the commission may subpoena witnesses and records and take evidence under oath. A person or political action committee that fails to obey the lawful subpoena of the commission or to testify before it under oath must be punished by the Superior Court for contempt upon application by the Attorney General on behalf of the commission.

2. Investigations requested. A person may apply in writing to the commission requesting an investigation concerning the registration of a candidate, treasurer, political committee or political action committee and contributions by or to and expenditures by a person, candidate, treasurer, political committee or political action committee. The commission shall review the application and shall make the investigation if the reasons stated for the request show sufficient grounds for believing that a violation may have occurred.

2-A. Confidentiality. (REPEALED)

3. State Auditor. The State Auditor shall assist the commission in making investigations and in other phases of the commission's duties under this chapter, as requested by the commission, and has all necessary powers to carry out these responsibilities.

3-A. Confidential records. Investigative working papers of the commission are confidential and may not be disclosed to any person except the members and staff of the commission, the subject of the audit or investigation, other entities as necessary for the conduct of an audit or investigation and law enforcement and other agencies for purposes of reporting, investigating or prosecuting a criminal or civil violation. For purposes of this subsection, "investigative working papers" means documents, records and other printed or electronic information in the following limited categories that are acquired, prepared or maintained by the commission during the conduct of an investigation or audit:

- A. Financial information not normally available to the public;
- B. Information belonging to a party committee, political action committee, ballot question committee, candidate or candidate's authorized committee, that if disclosed, would reveal sensitive political or campaign information;

- C. Information or records subject to a privilege against discovery or use as evidence; and
- D. Intra-agency or interagency communications related to an audit or investigation.

4. Attorney General. Upon the request of the commission, the Attorney General shall aid in any investigation, provide advice, examine any witnesses before the commission or otherwise assist the commission in the performance of its duties. The commission shall refer any apparent violations of this chapter to the Attorney General for prosecution.

21A § 1004. Violations

The violation of any of the following subsections is a Class E crime.

1. Contributions and expenditures. A person, candidate, treasurer, political committee or political action committee may not knowingly make or accept any contribution or make any expenditure in violation of this chapter.

2. False statements. No person, candidate, treasurer or political action committee may make a false statement in any report required by this chapter.

3. Contributions in another's name. No person may make a contribution in the name of another person or knowingly permit his name to be used to accomplish such a contribution, and no person may knowingly accept a contribution made by one person in the name of another person.

4. Registration; political action committees. No political action committee required to be registered under section 1053 may operate in this State unless it is so registered.

21-A § 1004-A. Penalties

The commission may assess the following penalties in addition to the other monetary sanctions authorized in this chapter.

1. Late campaign finance report. A person that files a late campaign finance report containing no contributions or expenditures may be assessed a penalty of no more than \$100.

2. Contribution in excess of limitations. A person that accepts or makes a contribution that exceeds the limitations set out in section 1015, subsections 1 and 2 may be assessed a penalty of no more than the amount by which the contribution exceeded the limitation.

3. Contribution in name of another person. A person that makes a contribution in the name of another person, or that knowingly accepts a contribution made by one person in the name of another person, may be assessed a penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

4. Substantial misreporting. A person that files a campaign finance report that substantially misreports contributions, expenditures or other campaign activity may be assessed a penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

5. Material false statements. A person that makes a material false statement or that makes a statement that includes a material misrepresentation in a document that is required to be submitted to the commission, or that is submitted in response to a request by the commission, may be assessed a penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

When the commission has reason to believe that a violation has occurred, the commission shall provide written notice to the candidate, party committee, political action committee, committee treasurer or other respondent and shall afford them an opportunity to appear before the commission before assessing any penalty. In determining any penalty under subsections 3, 4 and 5, the commission shall consider, among other things, the level of intent to mislead, the penalty necessary to deter similar misconduct in the future and the harm suffered by the public from the incorrect disclosure. A final determination by the commission may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7 and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 80C.

Penalties assessed pursuant to this section that have not been paid in full within 30 days after issuance of a notice of the final determination may be enforced in accordance with section 1004-B.

21-A § 1004-B. Enforcement of penalties assessed by the commission

The commission staff shall collect the full amount of any penalty and the return of Maine Clean Election Act funds required by the commission to be returned for a violation of the statutes or rules administered by the commission and has all necessary powers to carry out these duties. Failure to pay the full amount of any penalty assessed by the commission or return of Maine Clean Election Act funds is a civil violation by the candidate, treasurer, party committee, political action committee or other person. Thirty days after issuing the notice of penalty or order for the return of funds, the commission shall report to the Attorney General the name of any person who has failed to pay the full amount of any penalty or to return Maine Clean Election Act funds unless the commission has provided an extended deadline for payment. The Attorney General shall enforce the violation in a civil action to collect the full outstanding amount of the penalty or order for the return of Maine Clean Election Act funds. This action must be brought in the Superior Court for Kennebec County or the District Court, 7th District, Division of Southern Kennebec.

21-A § 1005 Restrictions on commercial use of contributor information

Information concerning contributors contained in campaign finance reports filed by candidates, political action committees and party committees and reports filed under section 1056-B may not be used for any commercial purpose, including, but not limited to, the sales and marketing of products and services, or for solicitations of any kind not directly related to activities of a political party, so-called “get out the vote” efforts or activities directly related to a campaign as defined in section 1052. Any person obtaining contributor information from the reports is prohibited from selling or distributing it to others to use for commercial purposes and also is prohibited from making publicly available the mailing addresses of

contributors. This section does not prohibit a political party, party committee, candidate committee, political action committee or any other organization that has obtained contributor information from the commission from providing access to such information to its members for purposes directly related to party activities, so-called “get out the vote” efforts or a campaign as defined in section 1052. A person who violates this section is subject to a fine of up to \$5,000. A person who knowingly violates this section commits a Class E crime.

SUBCHAPTER II

REPORTS ON CAMPAIGNS FOR OFFICE

21A § 1011. Application

This subchapter applies to candidates for all state and county offices and to campaigns for their nomination and election.

Candidates for municipal office as defined in Title 30-A, section 2502, subsection 1 are governed by this subchapter, with the following provisions:

1. Role of the municipal clerk; commission. For candidates for municipal office, the municipal clerk is responsible for any duty assigned to the commission in this subchapter related to the registration of candidates, receipt of reports and distribution of information or forms, unless otherwise provided. Notwithstanding any other deadline set forth in this chapter, candidates must file their reports by the close of business on the filing deadline established for the office of the municipal clerk. The commission retains the sole authority to prescribe the content of all reporting forms.

2. Exemptions. Exemptions for municipal candidates from the reporting requirements of this subchapter are governed by this subsection.

A. At the time a municipal candidate registers under section 1013-A, the candidate may notify the municipal clerk in writing that the candidate will not accept contributions, make expenditures or incur financial obligations associated with that person's candidacy. A candidate who provides this written notice is not required to appoint a treasurer or to meet the filing requirements of this section as long as the candidate complies with the commitment.

B. The notice provided to the municipal clerk in paragraph A may be revoked. A written revocation must be presented to the municipal clerk before the candidate may accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations associated with that person's candidacy. A candidate who has filed a notice with the municipal clerk under paragraph A and accepts contributions, makes expenditures or incurs obligations associated with that person's candidacy prior to filing a revocation may be assessed a penalty of \$10 for each business day that the revocation is late, up to a maximum of \$500. This penalty may be imposed in addition to the penalties assessed under other sections of this Title.

21A § 1012. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Clearly identified. "Clearly identified," with respect to a candidate, means that:

- A. The name of the candidate appears;
- B. A photograph or drawing of the candidate appears; or
- C. The identity of the candidate is apparent by unambiguous reference.

2. Contribution. The term "contribution:"

A. Includes:

- (1) A gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office or for the purpose of liquidating any campaign deficit of a candidate, except that a loan of money to a candidate by a financial institution in this State made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business is not included;
- (2) A contract, promise or agreement, express or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution for such purposes;
- (3) Funds received by a candidate or a political committee that are transferred to the candidate or committee from another political committee or other source; and
- (4) The payment, by any person other than a candidate or a political committee, of compensation for the personal services of other persons that are provided to the candidate or political committee without charge for any such purpose; and

B. Does not include:

- (1) The value of services provided without compensation by individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee;
- (2) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual to a candidate in rendering voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative value of these activities by the individual on behalf of any candidate does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;
- (3) The sale of any food or beverage by a vendor for use in a candidate's campaign at a charge less than the normal comparable charge, if the charge to the candidate is at least equal to the cost of the food or beverages to the vendor and if the cumulative value of the food or beverages does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;
- (4) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by an individual who volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these expenses does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;
- (4-A) Any unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses incurred and paid for by the candidate or the candidate's spouse or domestic partner;

- (5) The payment by a party's state, district, county or municipal committee of the costs of preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a party candidate listing;
- (6) Documents, in printed or electronic form, including party platforms, single copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the requirements of this Title, lists of registered voters and voter identification information, created, obtained or maintained by a political party for the general purpose of party building and provided to a candidate who is a member of that party;
- (7) Compensation paid by a state party committee to its employees for the following purposes:
 - (a) Providing no more than a total of 40 hours of assistance from its employees to a candidate in any election;
 - (b) Recruiting and overseeing volunteers for campaign activities involving 3 or more candidates; or
 - (c) Coordinating campaign events involving 3 or more candidates;
- (8) Campaign training sessions provided to 3 or more candidates;
- (8-A) Costs paid for by a party committee in connection with a campaign event at which 3 or more candidates are present;
- (8-B) Wood or other materials used for political signs that are found or contributed if not originally obtained by the candidate or contributor for campaign purposes;
- (8-C) The use or distribution of any communication, as described in section 1014, obtained by the candidate for a previous election and fully paid for during that election;
- (9) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the provider; or
- (10) Activity or communication designed to encourage individuals to register to vote or to vote if that activity or communication does not mention a clearly identified candidate.

3. Expenditure. The term "expenditure:"

A. Includes:

- (1) A purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to political office, except that a loan of money to a candidate by a financial institution in this State made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business is not included;
- (2) A contract, promise or agreement, expressed or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make any expenditure;
- (3) The transfer of funds by a candidate or a political committee to another candidate or political committee; and

(4) A payment or promise of payment to a person contracted with for the purpose of supporting or opposing any candidate, campaign, political committee, political action committee, political party, referendum or initiated petition or circulating an initiated petition; and

B. Does not include:

(1) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other periodical publication, unless the facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, candidate, or candidate's immediate family;

(1-A) Any communication distributed through a public access television station if the communication complies with the laws and rules governing the station and all candidates in the race have an equal opportunity to promote their candidacies through the station;

(2) Activity or communication designed to encourage individuals to register to vote or to vote if that activity or communication does not mention a clearly identified candidate;

(3) Any communication by any membership organization or corporation to its members or stockholders, if that membership organization or corporation is not organized primarily for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state or county office;

(4) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily provided by an individual to a candidate in rendering voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative value of these activities does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

(5) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by an individual who volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these expenses does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;

(5-A) Any unreimbursed campaign-related travel expenses incurred and paid for by the candidate or the candidate's spouse or domestic partner;

(6) Any communication by any person that is not made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to state or county office;

(7) The payment by a party's state, district, county or municipal committee of the costs of preparation, display or mailing or other distribution of a party candidate listing;

(8) The use or distribution of any communication, as described in section 1014, obtained by the candidate for a previous election and fully paid for during that election campaign;

(9) Documents, in printed or electronic form, including party platforms, single copies of issue papers, information pertaining to the requirements of this Title, lists of registered voters and voter identification information, created or

maintained by a political party for the general purpose of party building and provided to a candidate who is a member of that party;

(10) Compensation paid by a state party committee to its employees for the following purposes:

- (a) Providing no more than a total of 40 hours of assistance from its employees to a candidate in any election;
- (b) Recruiting and overseeing volunteers for campaign activities involving three (3) or more candidates; or
- (c) Coordinating campaign events involving three (3) or more candidates;

(10-A) Costs paid for by a party committee in connection with a campaign event at which three (3) or more candidates are present;

(11) Campaign training sessions provided to three (3) or more candidates;

(11-A) Wood or other materials used for political signs that are found or contributed if not originally obtained by the candidate or contributor for campaign purposes; or

(12) The use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the provider.

4. Exploratory committee. (REPEALED)

5. Party candidate listing. "Party candidate listing" means any communication that meets the following criteria.

A. The communication lists the names of at least three (3) candidates for election to public office.

B. The communication is distributed through public advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers and similar media, and through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery.

C. The treatment of all candidates in the communication is substantially similar, except for any requirement under federal law applicable to communications regarding federal candidates.

D. The content of the communication is limited to:

- (1) The identification of each candidate, with which pictures may be used;
- (2) The offices sought;
- (3) The offices currently held by the candidates;
- (4) The party affiliation of the candidates and a brief statement, including campaign slogans, about the party's or the candidates' positions, philosophy, goals, accomplishments or biographies;
- (5) Encouragement to vote for the candidates identified;
- (6) Information about voting, such as voting hours and locations; and

(7) Campaign or party logos.

If the communication contains language outside the categories of this paragraph, it does not qualify as a party candidate listing.

21A § 1013. Treasurer; political committees (REPEALED)

21A § 1013-A. Registration

1. Candidates, their treasurers and political committees. A candidate shall register the candidate's name and the name of a treasurer with the commission at least once in each legislative biennium, as provided in this section. A candidate may have only one treasurer, who must be appointed pursuant to paragraph A or B. For purposes of this section, "legislative biennium" means the term of office a person is elected to serve in the Legislature.

A. No later than ten (10) days after becoming a candidate and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations, a candidate for state or county office or a candidate for municipal office who has not filed a written notice in accordance with section 1011, subsection 2, paragraph A. shall appoint a treasurer. The candidate may serve as treasurer, except that a candidate certified in accordance with section 1125 may not serve as treasurer. The candidate may have only one treasurer, who is responsible for the filing of campaign finance reports under this chapter. A candidate shall register the candidate's name and address and the name and address of the treasurer appointed under this section no later than ten (10) days after the appointment of the treasurer. A candidate may accept contributions personally or make or authorize expenditures personally, as long as the candidate reports all contributions and expenditures to the treasurer. The treasurer shall make a consolidated report of all income and expenditures and provide this report to the commission.

(1) A candidate may appoint a deputy treasurer to act in the absence of the treasurer. The deputy treasurer, when acting in the absence of the treasurer, has the same powers and responsibilities as the treasurer. A candidate certified in accordance with section 1125 may not serve as deputy treasurer. When a treasurer dies or resigns, the deputy treasurer may not assume the position of treasurer unless the candidate appoints the deputy treasurer to the position of treasurer. The candidate shall report the name and address of the deputy treasurer to the commission no later than ten (10) days after the deputy treasurer has been appointed.

B. A candidate may authorize one political committee to promote the candidate's election. No later than ten (10) days after appointing a political committee and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations, a candidate for state, county or municipal office shall appoint a treasurer of the political committee. The treasurer of the political committee is responsible for filing campaign finance reports under this chapter. No later than ten (10) days after appointing a political committee, the candidate shall register with the commission the following information regarding the political committee:

- (1) The name of the committee;
- (2) The name and address of the committee's treasurer;
- (3) The name of the candidate who authorized the committee; and
- (4) The names and addresses of the committee's officers.

C. No later than ten (10) days after becoming a candidate, as defined in section 1, subsection 5, a candidate for the office of State House of Representatives or Senate shall file in writing a statement declaring that the candidate agrees to accept voluntary limits on political expenditures or that the candidate does not agree to accept voluntary limits on political expenditures, as specified in section 1015, subsections 7 to 9. A candidate who has filed a declaration of intent to become certified as a candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act is not required to file the written statement required by this paragraph.

The statement filed by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit spending must state that the candidate knows the voluntary expenditure limitations as set out in section 1015, subsection 8 and that the candidate is voluntarily agreeing to limit the candidate's political expenditures and those made on behalf of the candidate by the candidate's political committee or committees, the candidate's party and the candidate's immediate family to the amount set by law. The statement must further state that the candidate does not condone and will not solicit any independent expenditures made on behalf of the candidate.

The statement filed by a candidate who does not agree to voluntarily limit political expenditures must state that the candidate does not accept the voluntary expenditure limits as set out in section 1015, subsection 8.

2. Authorized political committees. (REPEALED)

3. Party committees. The state, district and county committees of parties shall submit to the commission the names and addresses of all their officers and of their treasurers and the name and address of the principal paid employee, if any, within 30 days after the appointment, election or hiring of these persons. Municipal committees must file copies of the same information with the commission and the municipal clerk. District, county and municipal committees that provide their state party committees with the information required by this subsection to be submitted to the commission have met that requirement. No later than the 2nd Monday in April of each year in which a general election is scheduled, the state committee of a party shall submit a consolidated report, including the information required under this subsection, for the district, county and municipal committees of that party.

4. Reporting by registered treasurers. Any contribution accepted and any expenditure made or authorized by or on behalf of a candidate registered under this section or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355 must be recorded and reported as provided in sections 1016 and 1017.

5. Changes in registration information. Every change in information required by this section to be reported to the commission shall be reported within ten (10) days of the date of the change.

21A § 1013-B. Removal of treasurer; filling vacancy of treasurer; substantiation of records of treasurer; notification to commission

A candidate may remove any treasurer that the candidate has appointed. In case of a vacancy in the position of treasurer of a candidate or treasurer of a political committee before the obligations of the treasurer have been performed, the candidate shall serve as treasurer from the date of the vacancy until the candidate appoints a successor and reports the name and address of the successor to the commission. The candidate shall file a written statement of resignation of a treasurer of a candidate or a treasurer of a political committee and until that statement has been filed, the resignation is not effective. An individual who vacates the position of treasurer by reason of removal or resignation shall certify in writing the accuracy of the treasurer's records to the succeeding treasurer. A succeeding treasurer may not be held responsible for the accuracy of the predecessor's records.

21A § 1014. Publication or distribution of political statements

1. Authorized by candidate. Whenever a person makes an expenditure to finance a communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate through broadcasting stations, newspapers, magazines, campaign signs or other outdoor advertising facilities, publicly accessible sites on the Internet, direct mails or other similar types of general public political advertising or through flyers, handbills, bumper stickers and other nonperiodical publications, the communication, if authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, must clearly and conspicuously state that the communication has been so authorized and must clearly state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication. The following forms of political communication do not require the name and address of the person who made or authorized the expenditure for the communication because the name or address would be so small as to be illegible or infeasible: ashtrays, badges and badge holders, balloons, campaign buttons, clothing, coasters, combs, emery boards, envelopes, erasers, glasses, key rings, letter openers, matchbooks, nail files, noisemakers, paper and plastic cups, pencils, pens, plastic tableware, 12-inch or shorter rulers, swizzle sticks, tickets to fund-raisers and similar items determined by the commission to be too small and unnecessary for the disclosures required by this section. A communication financed by a candidate or the candidate's committee is not required to state the address of the candidate or committee that financed the communication. A communication in the form of a sign that clearly identifies the name of the candidate and is lettered or printed individually by hand is not required to include the name and address of the person who made or financed the communication.

2. Not authorized by candidate. If the communication described in subsection 1 is not authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, the communication must clearly and conspicuously state that the communication is not authorized by any candidate and state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication. If the communication is in written form, the communication must contain at the bottom of the communication in 10-point bold print, Times New Roman font, the words "NOT PAID FOR OR AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE."

2-A. Communication. Whenever a person makes an expenditure to finance a communication that names or depicts a clearly identified candidate and that is disseminated during the 21 days before a primary election or 35 days before a general election through the media described in subsection 1, the communication must state the name and address of the person who made or financed the communication and a statement that the communication was or was not authorized by the candidate. The disclosure is not required if the communication was not made for the purpose of influencing the candidate's nomination for election or election.

3. Broadcasting prohibited without disclosure. No person operating a broadcasting station within this State may broadcast any communication, as described in subsections 1 to 2-A, without an oral or written visual announcement of the disclosure required by this section.

3-A. In-kind contributions of printed materials. A candidate, political committee or political action committee shall report on the campaign finance report as a contribution to the candidate, political committee or political action committee any contributions of in-kind printed materials to be used in the support of a candidate or in the support or defeat of a ballot question. Any in-kind contributions of printed materials used or distributed by a candidate, political committee or political action committee must include the name or title of that candidate, political committee or political action committee as the authorizing agent for the printing and distribution of the in-kind contribution.

3-B. Newspapers. A newspaper may not publish a communication described in subsections 1 to 2-A, without including the disclosure required by this section. For purposes of this subsection, "newspaper" includes any printed material intended for general circulation or to be read by the general public, including a version of the newspaper displayed on a website owned or operated by the newspaper. When necessary, a newspaper may seek the advice of the commission regarding whether or not the communication requires the disclosure.

4. Enforcement. An expenditure, communication or broadcast made within 20 days before the election to which it relates that results in a violation of this section may result in a civil fine of no more than \$200. The person who financed the communication or who committed the violation shall correct the violation within ten (10) days after receiving notification of the violation from the commission. An expenditure, communication or broadcast made more than 20 days before the election that results in a violation of this section may result in a civil fine of no more than \$100 if the violation is not corrected within ten (10) days after the person who financed the communication or other person who committed the violation receives notification of the violation from the commission. If the commission determines that a person violated this section with the intent to misrepresent the name or address of the person who made or financed the communication, or whether the communication was or was not authorized by the candidate, the commission may impose a fine of no more than \$5,000 against the person responsible for the communication. Enforcement and collection procedures must be in accordance with section 1020-A.

5. Telephone calls. Prerecorded automated telephone calls and scripted live telephone communications that name a clearly identified candidate during the 21 days before a primary election or the 35 days before a general election must clearly state the name of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication, except for prerecorded automated telephone calls paid for by the candidate that use the

candidate's voice in the telephone call and that are made in support of that candidate. Telephone calls made for the purposes of researching the views of voters are not required to include the disclosure.

21A § 1014-A. Endorsements of political candidates (REPEALED)

21A § 1014-B. Push polling

1. Push poll defined. For purposes of this section, "push poll" means any paid telephone survey or series of telephone surveys that are similar in nature that reference a candidate or group of candidates other than in a basic preference question, and when:

- A. A list or directory is used, exclusively or in part, to select respondents belonging to a particular subset or combination of subsets of the population, based on demographic or political characteristics such as race, sex, age, ethnicity, party affiliation or like characteristics;
- B. The survey fails to make demographic inquiries on factors such as age, household income or status as a likely voter sufficient to allow for the tabulation of results based on a relevant subset of the population consistent with standard polling industry practices;
- C. The pollster or polling organization does not collect or tabulate survey results;
- D. The survey prefaces a question regarding support for a candidate on the basis of an untrue statement; and
- E. The survey is primarily for the purpose of suppressing or changing the voting position of the call recipient.

"Push poll" does not include any survey supporting a particular candidate that fails to reference another candidate or candidates other than in a basic preference question.

2. Push polls; political telephone solicitations; requirements. Push polling must be conducted in accordance with this subsection.

- A. A person may not authorize, commission, conduct or administer a push poll by telephone or telephonic device unless, during each call, the caller identifies the person or organization sponsoring or authorizing the call by stating "This is a paid political advertisement by (name of persons or organizations)," and identifies the organization making the call, if different from the sponsor, by stating "This call is conducted by (name of organization)."
- B. If any person identified as either sponsoring or authorizing the call is not required to file any document with election officials pursuant to this Title, a valid, current, publicly listed telephone number and address for the person or organization must be disclosed during each call.
- C. If any person sponsoring or authorizing the call is affiliated with a candidate, the candidate's name and the office sought by that candidate must be disclosed during each call.

D. If the call is an independent expenditure, as defined in section 1019-B, that a candidate has not approved the call must be disclosed during each call.

It is not a violation of this subsection if the respondent voluntarily terminates the call or asks to be called back before the required disclosures are made, unless the respondent is in any way encouraged to do so by the person initiating the call.

A person may not state or imply false or fictitious names or telephone numbers when providing the disclosures required under this subsection.

All oral disclosures required by this subsection must be made in a clear and intelligible manner and must be repeated in that fashion upon request of the call respondent. Disclosures made by any telephonic device must offer respondents a procedure to have the disclosures repeated.

This subsection does not apply to a push poll or political telephone solicitation or contact if the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.

A person who violates this subsection may be assessed a forfeiture of \$500 by the commission.

3. Registered agents; requirements; registration. Persons conducting push polling shall register and comply with the requirements of this subsection.

A. A person who conducts a paid push poll or political telephone solicitation or contact, prior to conducting that poll, solicitation or contact, must have and continuously maintain for at least 180 days following the cessation of business activities in this State a designated agent for the purpose of service of process, notice or demand required or permitted by law, and shall file with the commission identification of that designated agent. Conducting business in this State includes both placing telephone calls from a location in this State and calls from other states or nations to individuals located within this State. The designated agent must be an individual resident of this State, a domestic corporation or a foreign corporation authorized to do business in this State. This paragraph does not apply to any entity already lawfully registered to conduct business in this State.

B. The commission shall create and maintain forms for the designation of agents required pursuant to paragraph A and require, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the designated agent; and
- (2) The name, address and telephone number of the person conducting business in this State.

C. The person conducting push polling shall notify the commission of any changes in the designated agent and the information required by paragraph B.

D. A person who violates this subsection may be assessed a forfeiture of \$500 by the commission.

4. Permitted practices. This section does not prohibit legitimate election practices, including but not limited to:

- A. Voter identification;

- B. Voter facilitation activities; or
- C. Generally accepted scientific polling research.

21A § 1015. Limitations on contributions and expenditures

1. Individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$750 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate or more than \$350 in any election for any other candidate. This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every two years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

2. Committees; corporations; associations. A political committee, political action committee, other committee, firm, partnership, corporation, association or organization may not make contributions to a candidate in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$750 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate or more than \$350 in any election for any other candidate. Beginning December 1, 2010, contribution limits in accordance with this subsection are adjusted every two years based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$25. The commission shall post the current contribution limit and the amount of the next adjustment and the date that it will become effective on its publicly accessible website and include this information with any publication to be used as a guide for candidates.

3. Aggregate contributions. No individual may make contributions to candidates aggregating more than \$25,000 in any calendar year. This limitation does not apply to contributions in support of a candidate by that candidate or that candidate's spouse or domestic partner.

4. Political committees; intermediaries. For the purpose of the limitations imposed by this section, contributions made to any political committee authorized by a candidate to accept contributions on the candidate's behalf are considered to be contributions made to that candidate.

For the purposes of the limitations imposed by this section, all contributions made by a person, either directly or indirectly, on behalf of a particular candidate that are in any way earmarked or otherwise directed through an intermediary or conduit to the candidate are considered to be contributions from that person to the candidate. The intermediary or conduit shall report the original source and the intended recipient of the contribution to the commission and to the intended recipient.

5. Other contributions and expenditures. Any expenditure made by any person in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a

candidate's political committee or their agents is considered to be a contribution to that candidate.

The financing by any person of the dissemination, distribution or republication, in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any written or other campaign materials prepared by the candidate, the candidate's political committee or committees or their authorized agents is considered to be a contribution to that candidate.

6. Prohibited expenditures. A candidate, a treasurer, a political committee, a party or party committee, a person required to file a report under this subchapter or their authorized agents may not make any expenditures for liquor to be distributed to or consumed by voters while the polls are open on election day.

7. Voluntary limitations on political expenditures. A candidate may voluntarily agree to limit the total expenditures made on behalf of that candidate's campaign as specified in section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraph C and subsections 8 and 9.

8. Political expenditure limitation amounts. Total expenditures in any election for legislative office by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit campaign expenditures as provided in subsection 7 are as follows:

- A. For State Senator, \$25,000; and
- B. For State Representative, \$5,000.
- C. **(REPEALED)**

Expenditure limits are per election and may not be carried forward from one election to another. For calculation and reporting purposes, the reporting periods established in section 1017 apply.

9. Publication of list. The commission shall publish a list of the candidates for State Representative and State Senator who have agreed to voluntarily limit total expenditures for their campaigns as provided in section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraph C.

For the purposes of subsections 7 and 8 and this subsection, "total expenditures" means the sum of all expenditures made to influence a single election that are made by a candidate or made on the candidate's behalf by the candidate's political committee or committees, the candidate's party or the candidate's immediate family.

21A § 1015-A. Corporate contributions

Contributions made by a for-profit or a nonprofit corporation including a parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department or local unit of a corporation, and contributions made by a political committee or political action committee whose contribution or expenditure activities are financed, maintained or controlled by a corporation are considered to be made by that corporation, political committee or political action committee.

1. Single entities. Two or more entities are treated as a single entity if the entities:

- A. Share the majority of members of their boards of directors;
- B. Share 2 or more officers;
- C. Are owned or controlled by the same majority shareholder or shareholders; or
- D. Are in a parent-subsidiary relationship.

2. Sole proprietorships. A sole proprietorship and its owner are treated as a single entity.

21A § 1016. Records

Each treasurer shall keep detailed records of all contributions received and of each expenditure that the treasurer or candidate makes or authorizes, as provided in this section. When reporting contributions and expenditures to the commission as required by section 1017, the treasurer shall certify the completeness and accuracy of the information reported by that treasurer.

1. Segregated funds. All funds of a political committee and campaign funds of a candidate must be segregated from, and may not be commingled with, any personal funds of the candidate, treasurer or other officers, members or associates of the committee. Personal funds of the candidate used to support the candidacy must be recorded and reported to the treasurer as contributions to the political committee, or the candidate if the candidate has not authorized a political committee.

2. Report of contributions and expenditures. A person who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure for a candidate or political committee shall report the contribution or expenditure to the treasurer within five (5) days of the receipt of the contribution or the making of the expenditure. A person who receives a contribution in excess of \$10 for a candidate or a political committee shall report to the treasurer the amount of the contribution, the name and address of the person making the contribution and the date on which the contribution was received.

3. Record keeping. A treasurer shall keep a detailed and exact account of:

- A. All contributions made to or for the candidate or committee, including any contributions by the candidate;
- B. The name and address of every person making a contribution in excess of \$10, the date and amount of that contribution and, if a person's contributions in any report filing period aggregate more than \$50, the account must include the contributor's occupation and principal place of business, if any. If the contributor is the candidate

or a member of the candidate's immediate family, the account must also state the relationship. For purposes of this paragraph, "filing period" is as provided in section 1017, subsections 2 and 3-A;

C. All expenditures made by or on behalf of the committee or candidate; and

D. The name and address of every person to whom any expenditure is made and the date and amount of the expenditure.

4. Receipts preservation. A treasurer shall obtain and keep a receipted bill, stating the particulars, for every expenditure in excess of \$50 made by or on behalf of a political committee or a candidate and for any such expenditure in a lesser amount if the aggregate amount of those expenditures to the same person in any election exceeds \$50. The treasurer shall preserve all receipted bills and accounts required to be kept by this section for two (2) years following the final report required to be filed for the election to which they pertain, unless otherwise ordered by the commission or a court.

21A § 1017. Reports by candidates

1. Federal candidates. (REPEALED)

2. Gubernatorial candidates. A treasurer of a candidate for the office of Governor shall file reports with the commission as follows. Once the first required report has been filed, each subsequent report must cover the period from the end date of the prior report filed.

A. In any calendar year, other than a gubernatorial election year, in which the candidate or the candidate's political committee has received contributions in excess of \$1,000 or made or authorized expenditures in excess of \$1,000, reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on July 15th of that year and January 15th of the following calendar year. These reports must include all contributions made to and all expenditures made or authorized by or on behalf of the candidate or the candidate's treasurer as of the end of the preceding month, except those covered by a previous report.

B. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date on which an election is held and must be complete as of the 49th day before that date. If a report was not filed under paragraph A, the report required under this paragraph must cover all contributions and expenditures through the 49th day before the election.

C. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 11th day before the date on which an election is held and must be complete as of the 14th day before that date.

D. Contributions aggregating \$1,000 or more from any one contributor or single expenditures of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of the election must be reported within 24 hours of those contributions or expenditures.

E. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on which an election is held and must be complete for the filing period as of the 35th day after that date.

F. Unless further reports will be filed in relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 shown in the reports described in paragraph E must be reported as provided in this paragraph. The treasurer of a candidate or political committee with a surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 shall file reports semiannually with the commission within 15 days following the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters of the State's fiscal year, complete as of the last day of the quarter, until the surplus is disposed of or the deficit is liquidated. The first report under this paragraph is not required until the 15th day of the period beginning at least 90 days from the date of the election. The reports will be considered timely if filed electronically or in person with the commission on that date or postmarked on that date. The reports must set forth any contributions for the purpose of liquidating the deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other reports required in this section.

G. Unless otherwise specified in this subsection, reports must be complete back to the end date of the previous report filing period. The reports described in paragraph E, if filed with respect to a primary election, are considered previous reports in relation to reports concerning a general election.

H. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition for the office of Governor must be filed on the same dates that reports must be filed with respect to a candidate who seeks that nomination by primary election.

3. Other candidates. (REPEALED)

3-A. Other candidates. A treasurer of a candidate for state or county office other than the office of Governor shall file reports with the commission and municipal candidates shall file reports with the municipal clerk as follows. Once the first required report has been filed, each subsequent report must cover the period from the end date of the prior report filed.

A. In any calendar year in which an election for the candidate's particular office is not scheduled, when any candidate or candidate's political committee has received contributions in excess of \$500 or made or authorized expenditures in excess of \$500, reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on July 15th of that year and January 15th of the following calendar year. These reports must include all contributions made to and all expenditures made or authorized by or on behalf of the candidate or the treasurer of the candidate as of the end of the preceding month, except those covered by a previous report.

B. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 11th day before the date on which an election is held and must be complete as of the 14th day before that date. If a report was not filed under paragraph A, the report required under this paragraph must cover all contributions and expenditures through the 14th day before the election.

C. Contributions aggregating \$1,000 or more from any one contributor or single expenditures of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th day before any election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of any election must be reported within 24 hours of those contributions or expenditures.

D. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day after the date on which an election is held and must be complete for the filing period as of the 35th day after that date.

D-1. Reports must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date on which a general election is held and must be complete as of the 49th day before that date, except that this report is not required for candidates for municipal office.

E. Unless further reports will be filed in relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 shown in the reports described in paragraph D must be reported as provided by this paragraph. The treasurer of a candidate with a surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 shall file reports semiannually with the commission within 15 days following the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters of the State's fiscal year, complete as of the last day of the quarter, until the surplus is disposed of or the deficit is liquidated. The first report under this paragraph is not required until the 15th day of the period beginning at least 90 days from the date of the election. The reports will be considered timely if filed electronically or in person with the commission on that date or postmarked on that date. The reports must set forth any contributions for the purpose of liquidating the deficit, in the same manner as contributions are set forth in other reports required in this section.

F. Reports with respect to a candidate who seeks nomination by petition must be filed on the same dates that reports must be filed by a candidate for the same office who seeks that nomination by primary election.

3-B. Accelerated reporting schedule. Additional reports are required from nonparticipating candidates as defined in section 1122, subsection 5, pursuant to this subsection.

A. In addition to other reports required by law, any candidate for Governor, State Senate or State House of Representatives who is not certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate under Chapter 14 and who receives, spends or obligates more than the primary or general election distribution amounts for a Maine Clean Election Act candidate in the same race shall file by any means acceptable to the commission, within 48 hours of that event, a report with the commission detailing the candidate's total campaign contributions, including any campaign balance from a previous election, obligations and expenditures to date.

B. A nonparticipating candidate who is required to file a report under paragraph A shall file no later than 5:00 p.m.:

- (1) For legislative candidates in a primary election only, a report on the 42nd day before the date on which a primary election is held that is complete as of the 44th day before that date;
- (2) For gubernatorial candidates only, a report on the 25th day before the date on which an election is held that is complete as of the 27th day before that date;
- (3) A report on the 18th day before the date on which an election is held that is complete as of the 20th day before that date; and

(4) A report on the 6th day before the date on which an election is held that is complete as of the 8th day before that date.

The reports must contain the candidate's total campaign contributions, including any campaign balance from a previous election, obligations and expenditures as of the end date of the reporting period.

The nonparticipating candidate shall file only those reports that are due after the date on which the candidate filed the report required under paragraph A.

C. A candidate who is required to file a report under paragraph A must file with the commission an updated report that reports single expenditures in the following amounts that are made after the 14th day before an election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the date of that election:

- (1) For a candidate for Governor, a single expenditure of \$1,000;
- (2) For a candidate for the state Senate, a single expenditure of \$750; and
- (3) For a candidate for the state House of Representatives, a single expenditure of \$500.

A report filed pursuant to this paragraph must be filed within 24 hours of the expenditure.

The commission shall provide forms to facilitate compliance with this subsection. The commission shall notify a candidate within 48 hours if an amount reported on any report under paragraph B exceeds the primary or general election distribution amounts for a Maine Clean Election Act candidate in the same race and no report has been received under paragraph A.

4. New candidate or nominee. A candidate for nomination or a nominee chosen to fill a vacancy under Chapter 5, subchapter 3 is subject to section 1013-A, subsection 1, except that the candidate shall register the name of a treasurer or political committee and all other information required in section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B within 7 days after the candidate's appointment or at least 6 days before the election, whichever is earlier. The commission shall send notification of this registration requirement and report forms and schedules to the candidate and the candidate's treasurer immediately upon notice of the candidate's and treasurer's appointments.

5. Content. A report required under this section must contain the itemized accounts of contributions received during that report filing period, including the date a contribution was received, and the name, address, occupation, principal place of business, if any, and the amount of the contribution of each person who has made a contribution or contributions aggregating in excess of \$50. The report must contain the itemized expenditures made or authorized during the report filing period, the date and purpose of each expenditure and the name of each payee and creditor. If the payee is a member of the candidate's household or immediate family, the candidate must disclose the candidate's relationship to the payee in a manner prescribed by the commission. The report must contain a statement of any loan to a candidate by a financial institution in connection with that candidate's candidacy that is made during the period covered by the report, whether or not the loan is defined as a contribution under section 1012, subsection 2, paragraph A. The candidate and the treasurer are jointly and severally responsible for the timely and accurate filing of each required report.

5-A. Valuation of contributions sold at auction. Any contribution received by a candidate that is later sold at auction must be reported in the following manner.

A. If the contribution is sold at auction before the commencement of the appropriate reporting period specified in subsections 2 to 4, or during that period, the value of the contribution is deemed to be the amount of the purchase price paid at auction.

B. If the contribution is sold after the termination of the appropriate reporting period specified in subsections 2 to 4, the value of the contribution is the difference between the value of the contribution as originally reported by the treasurer and the amount of the purchase price paid at auction. Unless further reports are filed in relation to a later election in the same calendar year, the disposition of any net surplus or deficit in excess of \$100 resulting from the difference between the auction price and the original contribution value must be reported in the same manner as provided in subsection 2, paragraph F or subsection 3-A, paragraph E, as appropriate.

6. Forms. Reports required by this section not filed electronically must be on forms prescribed, prepared and sent by the commission to the treasurer of each registered candidate at least 7 days before the filing date for the report. Establishment of or amendments to the campaign report filing forms required by this section must be by rule. Persons filing reports may use additional pages if necessary, but the pages must be the same size as the pages of the form. Although the commission mails the forms for required reports to candidates who are exempt from filing electronically, failure to receive forms by mail does not excuse treasurers, committees and other persons who must file reports from otherwise obtaining the forms or from late filing penalties.

Rules of the commission establishing campaign report filing forms for candidates are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, Chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

7. Reporting exemption. (REPEALED)

7-A. Reporting exemption. A candidate seeking election to a county or municipal office is exempt from reporting as provided by this subsection.

A. A candidate seeking election to a county or municipal office may, at the time the candidate registers under section 1013-A, notify the commission that the candidate and the candidate's agents, if any, will not personally accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations associated with that candidate's candidacy. The notification must be sworn and notarized. A candidate who provides this notice to the commission is not required to appoint a treasurer and is not subject to the filing requirements of this subchapter if the statement is true.

B. The notice provided to the commission under paragraph A may be revoked. Prior to revocation, the candidate must appoint a treasurer. The candidate may not accept contributions, make expenditures or incur obligations before the appointment of a treasurer and the filing of a revocation notice are accomplished. A revocation notice must be in the form of an amended registration, which must be filed with the commission no later than ten (10) days after the appointment of a treasurer. The candidate and the candidate's treasurer, as of the date the revocation notice is filed with the commission, may accept contributions, make expenditures and incur obligations associated with the candidate's candidacy. Any candidate who fails to file a timely revocation notice is

subject to the penalties prescribed in section 1020-A, subsection 4-A, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Lateness is calculated from the day a contribution is received, an expenditure is made or an obligation is incurred, whichever is earliest.

8. Disposition of surplus. A treasurer of a candidate registered under section 1013-A or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355 must dispose of a surplus exceeding \$100 within four (4) years of the election for which the contributions were received by:

- A. Returning contributions to the candidate's or candidate's authorized political committee's contributors, as long as no contributor receives more than the amount contributed;
- B. A gift to a qualified political party within the State, including any county or municipal subdivision of such a party;
- C. An unrestricted gift to the State. A candidate for municipal office may dispose of a surplus by making a restricted or unrestricted gift to the municipality;
- D. Carrying forward the surplus balance to a political committee established to promote the same candidate for a subsequent election;
- D-1. Carrying forward the surplus balance for use by the candidate for a subsequent election;
- E. Transferring the surplus balance to one or more other candidates registered under section 1013-A or qualified under sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355, or to political committees established to promote the election of those candidates, provided that the amount transferred does not exceed the contribution limits established by section 1015;
- F. Repaying any loans or retiring any other debts incurred to defray campaign expenses of the candidate;
- G. Paying for any expense incurred in the proper performance of the office to which the candidate is elected, as long as each expenditure is itemized on expenditure reports; and
- H. A gift to a charitable or educational organization that is not prohibited, for tax reasons, from receiving such a gift.

The choice must be made by the candidate for whose benefit the contributions were made.

9. Campaign termination report forms. The commission shall provide each candidate required to report campaign contributions and expenditures with a campaign termination report form. A candidate shall file the campaign termination report with the commission as required in this subsection. The campaign termination report must be complete as of June 30th of the year following the campaign of the previous year. This form must show any deficits or surpluses to be carried over to the next campaign. Funds not carried forward to the next campaign must be disposed of as provided in subsection 8. Campaign reporting is as follows.

- A. Candidates with surplus campaign funds following an election shall file termination reports no later than July 15th of the year following the campaign of the previous year.
- B. Candidates with a campaign deficit following an election shall file termination reports no later than July 15th of the year following the campaign of the previous year.
- C. Candidates with a deficit who will not participate in the next election for the same office shall file semiannual reports until the deficit is liquidated.
- D. Candidates who collect funds subsequent to an election for purposes other than retiring campaign debt shall register with the commission pursuant to section 1013-A.

10. Electronic filing. The treasurer of a candidate or committee that has receipts or expects to have receipts of more than \$1,500 shall file each report required by this section through an electronic filing system developed by the commission. The commission may make an exception to this electronic filing requirement if a candidate or committee submits a written request that states that the candidate or committee lacks access to the technology or the technological ability to file reports electronically. The request for an exception must be submitted by April 15th of the election year, except that a candidate registered according to subsection 4 has 10 business days from the date of registration to submit a request to the commission. The commission shall grant all reasonable requests for exceptions.

21A § 1017-A. Reports of contributions and expenditures by party committees

1. Contributions. A party committee shall report all contributions in cash or in kind from a single contributor that in the aggregate total more than \$200. The party committee shall report the name, mailing address, occupation and place of business of each contributor. Contributions of \$200 or less must be reported, and these contributions may be reported as a lump sum.

2. Expenditures to support or oppose candidates, others. A party committee shall report all expenditures made to support or oppose a candidate, political committee, political action committee or party committee registered under this chapter. The party committee shall report:

- A. The name of each candidate, political committee, political action committee or party committee;
- B. The office sought by a candidate and the district that the candidate seeks to represent; and
- C. The date, amount and purpose of each expenditure.

3. Other expenditures. Operational expenses and other expenditures that are not made to support or oppose a candidate, committee, political action committee or party committee must be reported separately. The party committee shall report:

- A. The name and address of each payee;
- B. The purpose for the expenditure; and
- C. The date and amount of each expenditure.

4. Filing schedule. (REPEALED)

4-A. Filing schedule. A state party committee shall file its reports according to the following schedule.

- A. Quarterly reports must be filed by 11:59 p.m.:
 - (1) On January 15th and must be complete up to December 31st;
 - (2) On April 10th and must be complete up to March 31st;
 - (3) On July 15th and must be complete up to June 30th; and
 - (4) On October 10th and must be complete up to September 30th.
- B. General and primary election reports must be filed by 11:59 p.m.:
 - (1) On the 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must be complete up to the 14th day before that date; and
 - (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be complete up to the 35th day after that date.
- C. Reports of spending to influence special elections, referenda, initiatives, bond issues or constitutional amendments must be filed by 11:59 p.m.:
 - (1) On the 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must be complete up to the 14th day before that date; and
 - (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be complete up to the 35th day after that date.
- D. A state party committee that files an election report under paragraph B or C is not required to file a quarterly report under paragraph A when the deadline for that quarterly report falls within ten (10) days of the filing deadline established in paragraph B or C.
- E. A state party committee shall report any expenditure of \$500 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that expenditure.

4-B. Filing schedule for municipal, district and county party committees. Municipal, district and county party committees shall file reports according to the following schedule.

- A. Reports filed during an election year must be filed with the commission by 11:59 p.m. on:

- (1) July 15th and be complete as of June 30th;
- (2) The 11th day before the date on which the general election is held and must be complete up to the 14th day before that date; and
- (3) January 15th and be complete as of December 31st.

B. Reports filed during a nonelection year must be filed by 11:59 p.m. on:

- (1) July 15th and be complete as of June 30th; and
- (2) January 15th and be complete as of December 31st.

C. Any expenditure of \$1,000 or more made after the 14th day before any election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of the election must be reported within 24 hours of that expenditure.

4-C. Electronic filing. State party committees shall file each report required by this section through an electronic filing system developed by the commission. The commission may make an exception to this electronic filing requirement if a party committee submits a written request that states that the party committee lacks access to the technology or the technological ability to file reports electronically. The request for an exception must be submitted by March 1st of the election year. The commission shall grant all reasonable requests for exceptions.

5. Penalties. A party committee is subject to the penalties in section 1020-A, subsection 4.

6. Notice; forms. A state party committee shall notify all county, district and municipal party committees of the same political party of the party committee reporting requirements. The party committees shall obtain the necessary forms from the commission to complete the filing requirements.

7. Exemption. Any party committee receiving and expending less than \$1,500 in one calendar year is exempt from the reporting requirements of this section for that year.

8. Municipal elections. When a party committee makes contributions or expenditures on behalf of a candidate for municipal office subject to this subchapter, it shall file a copy of the reports required by this section with the clerk in that candidate's municipality.

21A § 1017-B. Records

Any party committee that makes expenditures that aggregate in excess of \$50 to any one or more candidates, committees or campaigns in this State shall keep records as provided in this section. Records required to be kept under this section must be retained by the party committee until ten (10) days after the next election following the election to which the records pertain.

1. Details of records. The treasurer of a party committee shall record a detailed account of:

- A. All expenditures made to or on behalf of a candidate, campaign or committee;
- B. The identity and address of each candidate, campaign or committee;

C. The office sought by a candidate and the district the candidate seeks to represent, for candidates that a party committee has made an expenditure to or on behalf of; and

D. The date of each expenditure.

2. Receipts. The treasurer of a party committee shall retain a vendor invoice or receipt stating the particular goods or services purchased for every expenditure in excess of \$50.

3. Record of contributions. The treasurer of a party committee shall keep a record of all contributions to the committee, by name and mailing address, of each donor and the amount and date of the contribution. This subsection does not apply to aggregate contributions from a single donor of \$50 or less in an election. When any donor's contributions to a party committee exceed \$50, the record must include the aggregate amount of all contributions from that donor.

21A § 1018. Reports by party committees

1. State committee; federal reports. (REPEALED)

2. Party committee. (REPEALED)

21A § 1018-B Recounts of elections

1. Reporting. Candidates who are involved in a recount of an election shall file a report 90 days after the election containing itemized accounts of cash, goods and services received for the recount and payments made by the candidate for the recount. The reports must be made on forms prepared and sent by the commission. Persons donating services to the candidate are required to provide the candidate with an estimate of the value of the services donated. Political action committees and party committees making expenditures for a candidate's recount shall identify on their regularly filed reports that the expenditures were made for the purposes of a recount.

2. Limitations. Candidates may receive donations without limitation for purposes of a recount from party committees and caucus campaign committees and from attorneys, consultants and their firms that are donating their services without reimbursement. Candidates may not spend revenues received under Chapter 14 for recount expenditures.

21A § 1019. Reports of independent expenditures (REPEALED)

21A § 1019-A. Reports of membership communications

Any membership organization or corporation that makes a communication to its members or stockholders expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate shall report any expenses related to such communications aggregating in excess of \$50 in any one candidate's election race, notwithstanding the fact that such communications are not expenditures under section 1012, subsection 3, paragraph A. Reports required by this section

must be filed with the commission on forms prescribed and prepared by the commission and according to a reporting schedule that the commission shall establish by rule.

21A §1019-B. Reports of independent expenditures

1. Independent expenditures; definition. For the purposes of this section, an "independent expenditure":

A. Is any expenditure made by a person, party committee, political committee or political action committee, other than by contribution to a candidate or a candidate's authorized political committee, for any communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate; and

B. Is presumed in races involving a candidate who is certified as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate under section 1125, subsection 5 to be any expenditure made to design, produce or disseminate a communication that names or depicts a clearly identified candidate and is disseminated during the 21 days, including election day, before a primary election; the 35 days, including election day, before a general election; or during a special election until and on election day.

2. Rebutting presumption. A person presumed under this section to have made an independent expenditure may rebut the presumption by filing a signed written statement with the commission within 48 hours of making the expenditure stating that the cost was not incurred with the intent to influence the nomination, election or defeat of a candidate, supported by any additional evidence the person chooses to submit. The commission may gather any additional evidence it deems relevant and material and must determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether the cost was incurred with intent to influence the nomination, election or defeat of a candidate.

3. Report required; content; rules. A person, party committee, political committee or political action committee that makes independent expenditures aggregating in excess of \$100 during any one candidate's election shall file a report with the commission. In the case of a municipal election, a copy of the same information must be filed with the municipal clerk.

A. A report required by this subsection must be filed with the commission according to a reporting schedule that the commission shall establish by rule that takes into consideration existing campaign finance reporting requirements and matching fund provisions under Chapter 14. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, Chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

B. A report required by this subsection must contain an itemized account of each contribution or expenditure aggregating in excess of \$100 in any one candidate's election, the date and purpose of each contribution or expenditure and the name of each payee or creditor. The report must state whether the contribution or expenditure is in support of or in opposition to the candidate and must include, under penalty of perjury, as provided in Title 17-A, section 451, a statement under oath or affirmation whether the contribution or expenditure is made in cooperation, consultation or

concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, the candidate or an authorized committee or agent of the candidate.

C. A report required by this subsection must be on a form prescribed and prepared by the commission. A person filing this report may use additional pages if necessary, but the pages must be the same size as the pages of the form.

21A § 1020. Failure to file on time (REPEALED)

21A § 1020-A. Failure to file on time

1. Registration. A candidate that fails to register the name of a candidate, treasurer or political committee with the commission within the time allowed by section 1013-A, subsection 1 may be assessed a forfeiture of \$10. The commission shall determine whether a registration satisfies the requirements for timely filing under section 1013-A, subsection 1.

2. Campaign finance reports. A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless a properly signed or electronically submitted copy of the report, substantially conforming to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission by 11:59 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 7, the commission shall determine whether a report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The commission may waive a penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines that the penalty is disproportionate to the size of the candidate's campaign, the level of experience of the candidate, treasurer or campaign staff or the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For purposes of this section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

- A. A valid emergency determined by the commission, in the interest of the sound administration of justice, to warrant the waiver of the penalty in whole or in part;
- B. An error by the commission staff;
- C. Failure to receive notice of the filing deadline; or
- D. Other circumstances determined by the commission that warrant mitigation of the penalty, based upon relevant evidence presented that a bona fide effort was made to file the report in accordance with the statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, unexplained delays in postal service or interruptions in Internet service.

3. Municipal campaign finance reports. Municipal campaign finance reports must be filed, subject to all the provisions of this subchapter, with the municipal clerk on forms prescribed by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The municipal clerk shall send any notice of lateness required by subsection 6 and shall notify the commission of any late reports subject to a penalty.

4. Basis for penalties. (REPEALED)

4-A. Basis for penalties. The penalty for late filing of a report required under this subchapter, except for accelerated campaign finance reports required pursuant to section 1017, subsection 3-B, is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as follows:

- A. For the first violation, 1%;
- B. For the 2nd violation, 3%; and
- C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 5%.

Any penalty of less than \$10 is waived.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a two-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least two (2) days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

A registration or report may be provisionally filed by transmission of a facsimile copy of the duly executed report to the commission, as long as the facsimile copy is filed by the applicable deadline and an original of the same report is received by the commission within five calendar days thereafter.

The penalty for late filing of an accelerated campaign finance report as required in section 1017, subsection 3-B may be up to but no more than 3 times the amount by which the contributions received or expenditures obligated or made by the candidate, whichever is greater, exceed the applicable Maine Clean Election Fund disbursement amount, per day of violation. The commission shall make a finding of fact establishing when the report was due prior to imposing a penalty under this subsection. A penalty for failure to file an accelerated campaign finance report must be made payable to the Maine Clean Election Fund. In assessing a penalty for failure to file an accelerated campaign finance report, the commission shall consider the existence of mitigating circumstances. For the purposes of this subsection, “mitigating circumstances” has the same meaning as in subsection 2.

5. Maximum penalties. (REPEALED)

5-A. Maximum penalties. Penalties assessed under this subchapter may not exceed:

- A. Five thousand dollars for reports required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraph B, C, D, E or H; section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraph B, C, D, D-1 or F; section 1017, subsection 4; and section 1019-B, subsection 3;
- B. Five thousand dollars for state party committee reports required under section 1017-A, subsection 4-A, paragraphs A, B, C and E;
- C. One thousand dollars for reports required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraphs A and F and section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraphs A and E;
- D. Five hundred dollars for municipal, district and county committees for reports required under section 1017-A, subsection 4-B; or

E. Three times the unreported amount for reports required under section 1017, subsection 3-B, if the unreported amount is less than \$5,000 and the commission finds that the candidate in violation has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a bona fide effort was made to file an accurate and timely report.

6. Request for a commission determination. If the commission staff finds that a candidate or political committee has failed to file a report required under this subchapter, the commission staff shall mail a notice by certified mail to the candidate or political committee within three business days following the filing deadline informing the candidate or political committee that a report was not received. If a candidate or a political committee files a report required under this subchapter late, a notice of preliminary penalty must be sent to the candidate or political committee whose registration or campaign finance report was not received by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date, informing the candidate or political committee of the staff finding of violation and preliminary penalty calculated under subsection 4-A and providing the candidate or political committee with an opportunity to request a determination by the commission. The notice must be sent by certified mail. Any request for a determination must be made within 14 calendar days of receipt of the commission's notice. The 14-day period during which a determination may be requested begins on the day a recipient signs for the certified mail notice of the proposed penalty. If the certified letter is refused or left unclaimed at the post office, the 14-day period begins on the day the post office indicates it has given first notice of a certified letter. A candidate or political committee requesting a determination may either appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the candidate's or political committee's behalf or submit a sworn statement explaining the mitigating circumstances for consideration by the commission. A final determination by the commission may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7 and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C.

7. Final notice of penalty. If a determination has been requested by the candidate or political committee and made by the commission, notice of the commission's final determination and the penalty, if any, imposed pursuant to this subchapter must be sent to the candidate and the political committee.

If a determination is not requested, the preliminary penalty calculated by the commission staff is final. The commission staff shall mail final notice of the penalty to the candidate and treasurer. A detailed summary of all notices must be provided to the commission.

8. Failure to file report. The commission shall notify a candidate who has failed to file a report required by this subchapter, in writing, informing the candidate of the requirement to file a report. The notice must be sent by certified mail. If a candidate fails to file a report after 2 notices have been sent by the commission, the commission shall send a final notice by certified mail informing the candidate of the requirement to file and that the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for criminal prosecution. A candidate who fails to file a report as required by this subchapter after the commission has sent the notices required by this subsection is guilty of a Class E crime.

8-A. Penalties for failure to file report. The penalty for failure to file a report required under this subchapter may not exceed the maximum penalties as provided in subsection 5-A.

9. List of late-filing candidates. The commission shall prepare a list of the names of candidates who are late in filing a report required under section 1017, subsection 2, paragraph C or D or section 1017, subsection 3-A, paragraph B or C within 30 days of the date of the election and shall make that list available for public inspection.

10. Enforcement. A penalty assessed pursuant to this section that has not been paid in full within 30 days after issuance of a notice of the final determination may be enforced in accordance with section 1004-B.

SUBCHAPTER III
REPORTS ON REFERENDUM CAMPAIGNS

21A § 1031. Application (REPEALED)

21A § 1032. Definitions (REPEALED)

21A § 1033. Committee (REPEALED)

21A § 1034. Publication or distribution of statements (REPEALED)

21A § 1035. Records (REPEALED)

21A § 1036. Reports (REPEALED)

21A § 1037. Failure to file report on time (REPEALED)

SUBCHAPTER IV
REPORTS BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

21A § 1051. Application

This subchapter applies to the activities of political action committees organized in and outside this State that accept contributions, incur obligations or make expenditures for the election of state, county or municipal officers, or for the support or defeat of any campaign, as defined in this subchapter.

21A § 1052. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Campaign. "Campaign" means any course of activities for a specific purpose such as the initiation, promotion or defeat of a candidate or question, including:

- A. The referendum procedure under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17;
- B. The initiative procedure under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18;
- C. An amendment to the Constitution of Maine under Article X, Section 4;
- D. Legislation expressly conditioned upon ratification by a referendum vote under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 19;
- E. The ratification of the issue of bonds by the State or any agency thereof; and
- F. Any county or municipal referendum.

2. Committee. "Committee" means any political action committee, as defined in this subchapter, and includes any agent of a political action committee.

3. Contribution. "Contribution" includes:

- A. A gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made to a political action committee, except that a loan of money by a financial institution made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business is not included;
- B. A contract, promise or agreement, expressed or implied whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution to a political action committee;
- C. Any funds received by a political action committee that are to be transferred to any candidate, committee, campaign or organization for the purpose of promoting, defeating or initiating a candidate, referendum, political party or initiative, including the collection of signatures for a direct initiative, in this State; or

D. The payment, by any person or organization, of compensation for the personal services of other persons provided to a political action committee which is used by the political action committee to promote, defeat or initiate a candidate, campaign political party, referendum or initiated petition in this State.

4. Expenditure. The term "expenditure:"

A. Includes:

- (1) A purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or anything of value, made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to political office; or for the initiation, support or defeat of a campaign, referendum or initiative, including the collection of signatures for a direct initiative, in this State;
- (2) A contract, promise or agreement, expressed or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make any expenditure for the purposes set forth in this paragraph; and
- (3) The transfer of funds by a political action committee to another candidate or political committee; and

B. Does not include:

- (1) Any news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine or other periodical publication, unless these facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, candidate or candidate's immediate family;
- (2) Activity designed to encourage individuals to register to vote or to vote, if that activity or communication does not mention a clearly identified candidate;
- (3) Any communication by any membership organization or corporation to its members or stockholders, if that membership organization or corporation is not organized primarily for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state or county office;
- (4) The use of real or personal property and the cost of invitations, food and beverages, voluntarily provided by a political action committee in rendering voluntary personal services for candidate-related activities, if the cumulative value of these activities by the political action committee on behalf of any candidate does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election;
- (5) Any unreimbursed travel expenses incurred and paid for by a political action committee that volunteers personal services to a candidate, if the cumulative amount of these expenses does not exceed \$100 with respect to any election; and
- (6) Any communication by any political action committee member that is not made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to state or county office.

5. Political action committee. The term "political action committee:"

A. Includes:

- (1) Any separate or segregated fund established by any corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other organization whose purpose is to influence the outcome of an election, including a candidate election or ballot question;
- (2) **(REPEALED)**
- (3) **(REPEALED)**
- (4) Any organization, including any corporation or association, that has as its major purpose initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing a candidate election, campaign or ballot question and that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating more than \$1,500 in a calendar year for that purpose, including for the collection of signatures for a direct initiative or referendum in this State; and
- (5) Any organization that does not have as its major purpose promoting, defeating or influencing candidate elections but that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the purpose of promoting, defeating or influencing in any way the nomination or election of any candidate to political office.

B. Does not include:

- (1) A candidate or a candidate's treasurer under section 1013-A, subsection 1;
- (2) A candidate's authorized political committee under section 1013-A, subsection 2; or
- (3) A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3.

21A § 1053. Registration

Every political action committee, as defined under section 1052, subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) or (4) that makes expenditures in the aggregate in excess of \$1,500 and every political action committee, as defined under section 1052, subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (5), that makes expenditures in the aggregate in excess of \$5,000 must register with the commission within seven (7) days of exceeding the applicable amount on forms prescribed by the commission. These forms must include the following information and any additional information reasonably required by the commission to monitor the activities of political action committees in this State under this subchapter:

1. Identification of committee. The names and mailing addresses of the committee, its treasurer, its principal officers, the names of any candidates and Legislators who have a significant role in fund raising or decision-making for the committee and all individuals who are the primary fund-raisers and decision makers for the committee;

2. Form of organization. The form or structure of organization, including cooperatives, corporations, voluntary associations, partnerships or any other structure by which the committee functions. The date of origin or incorporation must also be specified; and

3. Statement of support or opposition. A statement indicating the positions of the committee, support or opposition, with respect to a candidate, political committee, referendum, initiated petition or campaign, if known at the time of registration. If a committee has no position on a candidate, campaign or issue at the time of registration, the committee must inform the commission as soon as the committee knows this information.

Every change in information required by this section must be included in an amended registration form submitted to the commission within ten (10) days of the date of the change. The committee must file an updated registration form every two (2) years between January 1st and March 1st of an election year. The commission may waive the updated registration requirement for newly registered political action committees or other registered political action committees if it determines that the requirement would cause an administrative burden disproportionate to the public benefit of updated information.

21A § 1053-A. Municipal elections

Organizations that qualify as political action committees under section 1052, subsection 5 and that are organized to influence elections on the municipal ballot in towns or cities with a population of 15,000 or more shall register and file reports with the municipal clerk as required by Title 30-A, section 2502. The reports must be filed in accordance with the reporting schedule in section 1059 and must contain the information listed in section 1060. A political action committee registered with the commission and that receives contributions or makes expenditures relating to a municipal election shall file a copy of the report containing such contributions or expenditures with the clerk in the subject municipality.

21A § 1053-B. Out-of-state political action committees

A political action committee organized outside of this State shall register and file reports with the commission in accordance with sections 1053 and 1058. The committee is not required to register and file reports if the committee's only financial activity within the State is to make contributions to candidates, party committees, political action committees or ballot question committees registered with the commission or a municipality and the committee has not raised and accepted any contributions during the calendar year to influence an election or campaign in this State.

21A § 1054. Appointment of treasurer

Any political action committee required to register under section 1053 must appoint a treasurer before registering with the commission. The treasurer shall retain, for a minimum of four (4) years, all receipts, including cancelled checks, of expenditures made in support of or in opposition to a campaign, political committee, political action committee, referendum or initiated petition in this State.

21A § 1055. Publication or distribution of political communications

A political action committee that makes an expenditure to finance a communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or that names or depicts a clearly identified candidate is subject to the requirements of section 1014.

21A § 1056. Expenditure limitations

Any committee required to register under this chapter shall comply with the following expenditure limitations.

1. Aggregate expenditures. A committee may not make contributions in support of the candidacy of one person aggregating more than \$500 in any election for a gubernatorial candidate, or \$250 in any election for any other candidate.

2. Prohibited expenditures. No committee may make any expenditure for liquor to be distributed to or consumed by voters while the polls are open on election day.

21A § 1056-A. Expenditures by political action committees

A political action committee shall report all expenditures in cash or in kind made by the committee.

21A § 1056-B. Ballot question committees

Any person not defined as a political action committee who receives contributions or makes expenditures, other than by contribution to a political action committee, aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question must file reports with the commission in accordance with this section. Within 7 days of receiving contributions or making expenditures that exceed \$5,000, the person shall register with the commission as a ballot question committee. For the purposes of this section, expenditures include paid staff time spent for the purpose of influencing in any way a ballot question. The commission must prescribe forms for the registration, and the forms must include specification of a treasurer for the committee, any other principal officers and all individuals who are the primary fund-raisers and decision makers for the committee. In the case of a municipal election, the registration and reports must be filed with the clerk of that municipality.

1. Filing requirements. A report required by this section must be filed with the commission according to the reporting schedule in section 1059. After completing all financial activity, the committee shall terminate its campaign finance reporting in the same manner provided in section 1061. The committee shall file each report required by this section through an electronic filing system developed by the commission unless granted a waiver under section 1059, subsection 5.

2. Content. A report must contain an itemized account of each expenditure made to and contribution received from a single source aggregating in excess of \$100 in any election; the date of each contribution; the date and purpose of each expenditure; the name and address of each contributor, payee or creditor; and the occupation and principal place of business, if any,

for any person who has made contributions exceeding \$100 in the aggregate. The filer is required to report only those contributions made to the filer for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question and only those expenditures made for those purposes. The definitions of “contribution” and “expenditure” in section 1052, subsections 3 and 4, respectively, apply to persons required to file ballot question reports.

2.A. Contributions. For the purposes of this section, “contribution” includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Funds that the contributor specified were given in connection with a ballot question;
- B. Funds provided in response to a solicitation that would lead the contributor to believe that the funds would be used specifically for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question;
- C. Funds that can reasonably be determined to have been provided by the contributor for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question when viewed in the context of the contribution and the recipient’s activities regarding a ballot question; and
- D. Funds or transfers from the general treasury of an organization filing a ballot question report.

3. Forms. A report required by this section must be on a form prescribed and prepared by the commission. A person filing this report may use additional pages if necessary, but the pages must be the same size as the pages of the form.

4. Records. A person filing a report required by this section shall keep records as required by this subsection for 4 years following the election to which the records pertain.

A. The filer shall keep a detailed account of all contributions made to the filer for the purpose of initiating, promoting, defeating or influencing in any way a ballot question and all expenditures made for those purposes.

B. The filer shall retain a vendor invoice or receipt stating the particular goods or services purchased for every expenditure in excess of \$50.

21A § 1057. Records

Any political action committee that is required to register under section 1053 or 1053-B shall keep records as provided in this section for 4 years following the election to which the records pertain.

1. Details of records. The treasurer of a political action committee must record a detailed account of:

- A. All expenditures made to or in behalf of a candidate, campaign or committee;
- B. The identity and address of each candidate, campaign or committee;
- C. The office sought by a candidate and the district he seeks to represent, for candidates which a political action committee has made an expenditure to or in behalf of; and

D. The date of each expenditure.

2. Receipts. The treasurer of a political action committee must retain a vendor invoice or receipt stating the particular goods or services purchased for every expenditure in excess of \$50.

3. Record of contributions. The treasurer of a political action committee must keep a record of all contributions to the committee, by name and mailing address, of each donor and the amount and date of the contribution. This provision does not apply to aggregate contributions from a single donor of \$50 or less for an election or referendum campaign. When any donor's contributions to a political action committee exceed \$50, the record must include the aggregate amount of all contributions from that donor.

21A § 1058. Reports; qualifications for filing

A political action committee that is required to register under section 1053 or 1053-B shall file reports with the commission on forms prescribed by the commission according to the schedule in section 1059.

21A § 1059. Report; filing requirements

Committees required to register under section 1053, 1053-B or 1056-B shall file an initial campaign finance report at the time of registration and thereafter shall file reports in compliance with this section. All reports must be filed by 11:59 p.m. on the filing deadline, except that reports submitted to a municipal clerk must be filed by the close of business on the filing deadline.

1. Contents; quarterly reports and election year reports. (REPEALED)

2. Reporting schedule. Committees shall file reports according to the following schedule.

A. Quarterly reports must be filed:

- (1) On January 15th and must be complete as of December 31st;
- (2) On April 10th and must be complete as of March 31st;
- (3) On July 15th and must be complete as of June 30th; and
- (4) On October 10th and must be complete as of September 30th.

B. General and primary election reports must be filed:

- (1) On the 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must be complete as of the 14th day before that date; and
- (2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be complete as of the 35th day after that date.

C. Reports of spending to influence special elections, referenda, initiatives, bond issues or constitutional amendments must be filed:

(1) On the 11th day before the date on which the election is held and must be complete as of the 14th day before that date; and

(2) On the 42nd day after the date on which the election is held and must be complete as of the 35th day after that date.

D. A committee that files an election report under paragraph B or C is not required to file a quarterly report when the deadline for that quarterly report falls within ten (10) days of the filing deadline established in paragraph B or C.

E. A committee shall report any expenditure of \$500 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that expenditure.

3. Report of expenditures made after the 11th day and more than 48 hours before any election. (REPEALED)

4. Special election reports. (REPEALED)

5. Electronic filing. Committees shall file each report required by this section through an electronic filing system developed by the commission. The commission may make an exception to this electronic filing requirement if a committee submits a written request that states that the committee lacks access to the technology or the technological ability to file reports electronically. The request for an exception must be submitted within 30 days of the registration of the committee. The commission shall grant all reasonable requests for exceptions.

21A § 1060. Content of reports

The reports must contain the following information and any additional information required by the commission to monitor the activities of political action committees:

1. Identification of candidates. The names of and offices sought by all candidates whom the committee supports, intends to support or seeks to defeat;

2. Identification of committees; parties. The names of all political committees or party committees supported in any way by the committee;

3. Identification of referendum or initiated petition. The referenda or initiated petitions that the committee supports or opposes;

4. Itemized expenditures. An itemization of each expenditure made to support or oppose any candidate, campaign, political committee, political action committee and party committee or to support or oppose a referendum or initiated petition, including the date, payee and purpose of the expenditure; the name of each candidate, campaign, political committee, political action committee or party committee supported or opposed; and each referendum or initiated petition supported or opposed by the expenditure. If expenditures were made to a person described in section 1012, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (4), the report must contain the name of the person; the amount spent by that person on behalf of the candidate, campaign, political committee, political action committee, party committee, referendum or initiated petition, including, but not limited to, expenditures made during the signature-gathering phase; the reason for the expenditure; and the date of the expenditure.

The commission may specify the categories of expenditures that are to be reported to enable the commission to closely monitor the activities of political action committees;

5. Aggregate expenditures. An aggregation of expenditures and cumulative aggregation of expenditures to a candidate, campaign, political committee, political action committee, party committee, referendum or initiated petition;

6. Identification of contributions. Names, occupations, places of business and mailing addresses of contributors who have given more than \$50 to the political action committee in the reporting period and the amount and date of each contribution, except that an organization qualifying as a political action committee under section 1052, subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (5) is required to report only those contributions made to the organization for the purpose of promoting, defeating or influencing a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate to political office and all transfers to or funds used to support the political action committee from the general treasury of the organization; and

7. Other expenditures. Operational expenses and other expenditures that are not made on behalf of a candidate, committee or campaign, except that an organization qualifying as a political action committee under section 1052, subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (5) is required to report only those expenditures made for the purpose of promoting, defeating or influencing a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate to political office.

21A § 1061. Dissolution of committees

Whenever any political action committee determines that it will no longer accept any contributions or make any expenditures, the committee shall file a termination report that includes all financial activity from the end date of the previous reporting period through the date of termination with the commission. The committee must dispose of any surplus prior to termination. In the termination report, the committee shall report any outstanding loan, debt or obligation in the manner prescribed by the commission.

21A § 1062. Failure to file on time (REPEALED)

21A § 1062-A. Failure to file on time

1. Registration. A political action committee required to register under section 1053 or 1053-B or a ballot question committee required to register under section 1056-B that fails to do so or that fails to provide the information required by the commission for registration may be assessed a fine of \$250.

2. Campaign finance reports. A campaign finance report is not timely filed unless a properly signed or electronically submitted copy of the report, substantially conforming to the disclosure requirements of this subchapter, is received by the commission by 11:59 p.m. on the date it is due. Except as provided in subsection 6, the commission shall determine whether a required report satisfies the requirements for timely filing. The commission may waive a penalty in whole or in part if it is disproportionate to the level of experience of the person filing the report or to the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the

failure to file a timely report was due to mitigating circumstances. For purposes of this section, "mitigating circumstances" means:

- A. A valid emergency of the committee treasurer determined by the commission, in the interest of the sound administration of justice, to warrant the waiver of the penalty in whole or in part;
- B. An error by the commission staff; or
- C. Other circumstances determined by the commission that warrant mitigation of the penalty, based upon relevant evidence presented that a bona fide effort was made to file the report in accordance with the statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, unexplained delays in postal service or interruptions in Internet service.

3. Basis for penalties. The penalty for late filing of a report required under this subchapter is a percentage of the total contributions or expenditures for the filing period, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of calendar days late, as follows:

- A. For the first violation, 1%;
- B. For the 2nd violation, 3%; and
- C. For the 3rd and subsequent violations, 5%.

Any penalty of less than \$10 is waived.

Violations accumulate on reports with filing deadlines in a two-year period that begins on January 1st of each even-numbered calendar year. Waiver of a penalty does not nullify the finding of a violation.

A report required to be filed under this subchapter that is sent by certified or registered United States mail and postmarked at least two (2) days before the deadline is not subject to penalty.

A required report may be provisionally filed by transmission of a facsimile copy of the duly executed report to the commission, as long as an original of the same report is received by the commission within five calendar days thereafter.

4. Maximum penalties. The maximum penalty under this subchapter is \$10,000 for reports required under section 1056-B or section 1059.

5. Request for a commission determination. (REPEALED)

5. Request for a commission determination. If the commission staff finds that a political action committee has failed to file a report required under this subchapter, the commission staff shall mail a notice by certified mail to the treasurer of the political action committee within three business days following the filing deadline informing the treasurer that a report was not received. If a political action committee files a report required under this subchapter late, a notice of preliminary penalty must be forwarded to the treasurer of the political action committee whose report is not received by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date, informing the treasurer of the commission staff finding of violation and preliminary penalty calculated under subsection 3 and providing the treasurer with an opportunity to request a determination by the commission. The notice must be sent by certified mail. A request for determination must be made within 14 calendar days of receipt of the commission's notice. The 14-day period during which a determination may be requested begins on the day a recipient signs for the certified mail notice of the proposed penalty. If the certified letter is

refused or left unclaimed at the post office, the 14-day period begins on the day the post office indicates it has given first notice of a certified letter. A principal officer or treasurer requesting a determination may either appear in person or designate a representative to appear on the principal officer's or treasurer's behalf or submit a sworn statement explaining the mitigating circumstances for consideration by the commission. A final determination by the commission may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7 and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C.

6. Final notice of penalty. After a commission meeting, notice of the final determination of the commission and the penalty, if any, imposed pursuant to this subchapter must be sent to the principal officer and the treasurer of the political action committee.

If a determination is not requested, the preliminary penalty calculated by the commission staff is final. The commission staff shall mail final notice of the penalty to the principal officer and to the treasurer of the political action committee. A detailed summary of all notices must be provided to the commission.

7. List of late-filing committees. The commission shall prepare a list of the names of political action committees that are late in filing a report required under section 1059, subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph (1) or section 1059, subsection 2, paragraph C or D within 30 days of the date of the election and shall make that list available for public inspection.

8. Failure to file. A person who fails to file a report as required by this subchapter within 30 days of the filing deadline is guilty of a Class E crime, except that, if a penalty pursuant to subsection 8-A is assessed and collected by the commission, the State may not prosecute a violation under this subsection.

8-A. Penalties for failure to file report. The commission may assess a civil penalty for failure to file a report required by this subchapter. The maximum penalty for failure to file a report required under section 1056-B or section 1059 is \$10,000.

9. Enforcement. A penalty assessed pursuant to this section that has not been paid in full within 30 days after issuance of a notice of the final determination may be enforced in accordance with section 1004-B.

21A § 1063. Constitutional officers and State Auditor

The Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, the Attorney General, the State Auditor, or any individual running for these offices, may not form a political action committee or be involved in decision making for or solicit contributions to a political action committee.

SUBCHAPTER V
MAINE CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

21A § 1101. Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices

1. Distribution to candidates. At the time a candidate for the office of Governor, the Senate or the House of Representatives registers with the commission as required under section 1013-A, the commission shall give the candidate a form containing a copy of the Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices established in this subchapter. The commission shall, at that time, inform the candidate that subscription to the code is voluntary. For the purposes of this subchapter, "code" means the Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

2. The code form. The code, printed on the form provided to candidates under subsection 1, must read as follows:

"Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices

I shall conduct my campaign and, to the extent reasonably possible, insist that my supporters conduct themselves, in a manner consistent with the best Maine and American traditions, discussing the issues and presenting my record and policies with sincerity and candor.

I shall uphold the right of every qualified voter to free and equal participation in the election process.

I shall not participate in and I shall condemn defamation of and other attacks on any opposing candidate or party that I do not believe to be truthful, provable and relevant to my campaign.

I shall not use or authorize and I shall condemn material relating to my campaign that falsifies, misrepresents or distorts the facts, including, but not limited to, malicious or unfounded accusations creating or exploiting doubts as to the morality, patriotism or motivations of any party or candidate.

I shall not appeal to and I shall condemn appeals to prejudices based on race, creed, sex or national origin.

I shall not practice and I shall condemn practices that tend to corrupt or undermine the system of free election or that hamper or prevent the free expression of the will of the voters.

I shall promptly and publicly repudiate the support of any individual or group that resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of an opponent, to methods in violation of the letter or spirit of this code.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of Maine, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to and solemnly pledge to conduct my campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

Candidate for Public Office"

21A § 1102. Printing of code forms

The commission shall print, or cause to be printed, copies of the code for distribution to registered candidates.

21A § 1103. Acceptance of completed forms

The commission shall accept, at all times prior to the election, completed code forms that are properly subscribed to by a candidate.

21A § 1104. Public records

The commission shall retain for public inspection all completed code forms accepted by the commission under section 1103. A code subscribed to by a candidate is a public record under Title 1, section 408.

21A § 1105. Subscription to code voluntary

In no event may a candidate be required to subscribe to or endorse the code.

MISCELLANEOUS STATUTORY PROVISIONS

21-A MRSA §1, sub-§5. Definitions

5. Candidate. “Candidate” means any person who has filed a petition under either sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355 and has qualified as a candidate by either procedure, or any person who has received contributions or made expenditures or has given his consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with the intent of qualifying as a candidate.

21-A MRSA §1, sub-§11. Definitions

11. County office. “County office” means the office of judge of probate, register of probate, county treasurer, register of deeds, sheriff, district attorney or county commissioner.

21-A MRSA §1, sub-§30. Definitions

30. Political Committee. “Political committee” means 2 or more persons associated for the purpose of promoting or defeating a candidate, party or principle.

21-A MRSA §23, sub-§§9-11. Preservation and destruction of records

9. Registration of treasurer. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall keep the registration of a treasurer under section 1013 in its office for two (2) years.

10. Records and campaign finances. Each treasurer and each candidate shall keep the records required by section 1016 for two (2) years following the election to which they pertain.

11. Campaign reports. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall keep the campaign reports or report data in its office for at least 8 years.

21-A MRSA §32, sub-§§1-2. Violations and penalties

1. Class E crime. A person commits a Class E crime if that person:

A. Knowingly violates a provision of this Title for which no penalty has been provided; or

B. Knowingly displays or distributes political advertisements in or on state-owned or state-leased property.

This paragraph does not apply to acts on state highways or to displays on motor vehicles not owned by the State while temporarily parked in parking areas on land maintained by the State. This paragraph does not apply to acts in or on a state-owned or state-leased building for a period beginning 48 hours before and ending 48 hours after that building is used by a political party to conduct a political activity within that building.

2. Class D crime. A person commits a Class D crime if that person:

A. Is a public official and knowingly fails or refuses to perform a duty required of that official under this Title.

30-A MRS §2501. Applicability of provisions for municipalities and counties

1. Clerk to perform duties of Secretary of State. When Title 21-A applies to any municipal election, the municipal clerk shall perform the duties of the Secretary of State prescribed by Title 21-A.

2. Qualifications for voting. The qualifications for voting in a municipal election conducted under this Title are governed solely by Title 21-A, section 111.

30-A MRS §2502. Campaign reports in municipal elections

1. Reports by candidates. A candidate for municipal office of a town or city with a population of 15,000 or more is governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A, except that notices of appointment of a treasurer and campaign reports must be filed with the municipal clerk instead of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before an election for office. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to those sections.

A. Notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 4-A, a candidate who fails to file a notice or report as required by this section is guilty of a Class E crime and may be punished by a fine of \$5 for every day the candidate is in default or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

2. Municipal referenda campaigns. Municipal referenda campaigns in towns or cities with a population of 15,000 or more are governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV. The registrations and reports of political action committees must be filed with the municipal clerk. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter IV by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before a referendum election. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to that subchapter.

36 MRSA §5286. Contribution to Maine Clean Election Fund; voluntary check off

1. Designation. Resident taxpayers may designate that \$3 of their taxes be deposited in the Maine Clean Election Fund in accordance with Title 21-A, section 1124.

2. Forms. The State Tax Assessor shall provide on the first page of the income tax form a space for the filing individual to indicate whether that filer wishes to pay \$3, or \$6 if filing a joint return, from the General Fund of the State to finance the Maine Clean Election Fund.

3. Transfer of funds. The State Tax Assessor shall transfer funds from the General Fund in accordance with Title 21-A, section 1124.