

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

Chapter 664

Registering as a Political Action Committee, Political Advocacy Organization or Candidate Committee

Any political committee, **except** that of a political party, shall register with the Secretary of State not later than 48 hours after the committee:

- Promotes the success or defeat of a candidate(s) or measure(s).
- Establishes a segregated fund to promote the success or defeat of a candidate(s) or measure(s).
- If it has as its major purpose promoting the success or defeat of a candidate(s) or measure(s), has receipts or expenditures that total \$2,500 or more in a calendar year.
- If it does not have as a major purpose promoting the success or defeat of a candidate(s) or measure(s), makes expenditures that total \$5000 or more in a calendar year.

Any political committee which is organized to support a candidate in any election shall secure the written consent of the candidate or his fiscal agent before it receives contributions or makes expenditures. Such written consent shall be filed with the secretary of state when the registration is filed.

The fee for registration of any committee (not of a candidate or of a political party) is \$50.

Each political committee must have a treasurer or agent who is a resident of New Hampshire.

The committee registration must indicate whether the committee will be making independent expenditures and must state the purpose of the committee.

The committee shall file an amendment to its registration within 14 days of any change in the officers or purpose of the committee.

Termination of Political Committees.

Political committee registrations are valid for any election up until 10 days after the election for which they are registered, unless terminated previously by the committee. However, any committee which has a continuing obligation to report as required under RSA 664:6, V shall continue to exist for the purpose of making such reports. Political committees may register for an election cycle any time after the final report is due following the then-most-recent general election.

Late Filing of Reports.

Reports filed late during the election cycle are subject to the following fine schedule determined by the date of receipt at the Office of the Secretary of State.

- Political Action Committee \$25/day
- Governor \$25/day
- Executive Council \$25/day
- County Officers \$25/day
- State Senate \$5/day
- State Representative \$5/day

What must be reported and when?

Political Committees and Political Advocacy Organizations must report at the next applicable reporting date when they have **either received or spent** an aggregate total of more than \$500.

Candidates and political party committees must report at the next applicable reporting date when they have **spent** more than \$500.

Once a report is filed, all subsequent reports shall be filed, even if there was no activity.

Reporting of Contributions.

Reports by Political Committees and Candidates must include all contributions.

Contributions \$25.00 and under may be listed as unitemized.
All contributions over \$25.00 must be listed alphabetically by the contributor's surname.

When any contributor has given an aggregate of more than \$100 for either the primary or the general election, that person's name, home address, occupation, employer's name, and city or town of business must be included.

Reporting of Expenditures.

All expenditures must be listed with the name and address of persons or other entities paid, the election for which the expenditure was made, the date paid, and the nature and amount of each expenditure.

Prohibited Contributions.

Candidates and Political Action Committees which support, or oppose candidates, cannot accept contributions made directly from labor unions. They may accept voluntary contributions from corporate employees or members of unions. Corporations may contribute amounts in the same manner as a person.

Corporations or labor unions may form Political Action Committees to accept voluntary contributions.

Insurance companies may now make political contributions directly to candidates.

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