

## CHAPTER 398

(HB 939)

AN ACT relating to campaign finance.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 121 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) *The General Assembly finds and declares that:*

- (a) *The intent of disclosure of campaign finance information is to make that information about the role of money in politics accessible to the public;*
- (b) *The volume of campaign finance reports submitted each year to the state renders it virtually impossible, without the help of computer technology, to derive meaningful conclusions from the records;*
- (c) *Computer automation is a necessary and effective means of transmitting, organizing, storing, and retrieving vast amounts of data submitted by candidates in election campaigns; and*
- (d) *Although candidates are currently permitted to file campaign finance reports electronically if they so choose, very few candidates have chosen to do so, and therefore access to campaign finance data through electronic or on-line technology is limited.*

(2) *The General Assembly enacts this legislation to accomplish the following:*

- (a) *To improve the existing system of electronic reporting and extend its usage to more candidates;*
- (b) *To allow concerned persons easy, convenient, and timely access to campaign finance reports submitted to the state;*
- (c) *To ease the burden on candidates and committees of tabulating, filing, and maintaining public records of financial activity;*
- (d) *To strengthen both the disclosure and enforcement capabilities of the Registry of Election Finance;*
- (e) *To cooperate in the standardization of reporting formats among states so that interstate as well as intrastate sources of political money can be known;*
- (f) *To provide for a fully informed electorate; and*
- (g) *To help restore public trust in the governmental and electoral institutions of this state.*

Section 2. KRS 121.015 is amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Registry" means the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance;
- (2) "Election" means any primary, runoff primary, regular, or special election to fill vacancies regardless of whether a candidate or slate of candidates is opposed or unopposed in an election. Each primary, runoff primary, regular, or special election shall be considered a separate election;

- (3) "Committee" includes the following:
- (a) "Campaign committee," which means one (1) or more persons who receive contributions and make expenditures to support or oppose one (1) or more specific candidates or slates of candidates for nomination or election to any state, county, city, or district office, but does not include an entity established solely by a candidate which is managed solely by a candidate and a campaign treasurer and whose name is generic in nature, such as "Friends of (the candidate)," and does not reflect that other persons have structured themselves as a committee, designated officers of the committee, and assigned responsibilities and duties to each officer with the purpose of managing a campaign to support or oppose a candidate in an election;
  - (b) "Political issues committee," which means three (3) or more persons joining together to advocate or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which appears on the ballot if that committee receives or expends money in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000);
  - (c) "Permanent committee," which means a group of individuals, including an association, committee or organization, other than a campaign committee, political issues committee, inaugural committee, or party executive committee, which is established as, or intended to be, a permanent organization having as a primary purpose expressly advocating the election or defeat of one (1) or more clearly identified candidates, slates of candidates, or political parties, which functions on a regular basis throughout the year;
  - (d) An executive committee of a political party; and
  - (e) "Inaugural committee," which means one (1) or more persons who receive contributions and make expenditures in support of inauguration activities for any candidate or slate of candidates elected to any state, county, city, or district office;
- (4) "Contributing organization" means a group which merely contributes to candidates, campaign committees, or executive committees from time to time from funds derived solely from within the group, and which does not solicit or receive funds from sources outside the group itself. However, any contributions made by the groups in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be reported to the registry;
- (5) "Testimonial affair" means an affair held in honor of a person who holds or who is or was a candidate for nomination or election to a political office in this state designed to raise funds for any purpose not charitable, religious, or educational;
- (6) "Contribution" means any:
- (a) Payment, distribution, loan, deposit, or gift of money or other thing of value, to a candidate, his agent, a slate of candidates, its authorized agent, a committee, or contributing organization. As used in this subsection, "loan" shall include a guarantee, endorsement, or other form of security where the risk of nonpayment rests with the surety, guarantor, or endorser, as well as with a committee, contributing organization, candidate, slate of candidates, or other primary obligor. No person shall become liable as surety, endorser, or guarantor for any sum in any one (1) election which, when combined with all other contributions the individual makes to a candidate, his agent, a slate of candidates, its agent, a committee, or a contributing organization, exceeds the contribution limits provided in KRS 121A.050 or KRS 121.150;

- (b) Payment by any person other than the candidate, his authorized treasurer, a slate of candidates, its authorized treasurer, a committee, or a contributing organization, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, or for inauguration activities;
  - (c) Goods, advertising, or services with a value of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate in any one (1) election which are furnished to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization or for inauguration activities without charge, or at a rate which is less than the rate normally charged for the goods or services; or
  - (d) Payment by any person other than a candidate, his authorized treasurer, a slate of candidates, its authorized treasurer, a committee, or contributing organization for any goods or services with a value of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate in any one (1) election which are utilized by a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, or for inauguration activities;
- (7) Notwithstanding the foregoing meanings of "contribution," the word shall not be construed to include:
- (a) Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate, committee, or contributing organization;
  - (b) A loan of money by any financial institution doing business in Kentucky made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business; or
  - (c) An independent expenditure by any individual or permanent committee;
- (8) "Candidate" means any person who has received contributions or made expenditures, has appointed a campaign treasurer, or has given his consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about his nomination or election to public office, except federal office;
- (9) "Slate of candidates" means any two (2) persons who have filed a joint notification and declaration pursuant to KRS 118.127, received contributions or made expenditures, appointed a campaign treasurer, designated a campaign depository, or given their consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about their nomination for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Unless the context requires otherwise, any provision of law that applies to a candidate shall also apply to a slate of candidates;
- (10) "Knowingly" means, with respect to conduct or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense, that a person is aware or should have been aware that his conduct is of that nature or that the circumstance exists;
- (11) "Fundraiser" means an individual who directly solicits and secures contributions on behalf of a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or an office in a jurisdiction with a population in excess of two hundred thousand (200,000) residents;~~[-and]~~
- (12) "Independent expenditure" means the expenditure of money or other things of value for a communication which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified

candidate or slate of candidates, and which is made without any coordination, consultation, or cooperation with any candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or any authorized person acting on behalf of any of them, and which is not made in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of any candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or any authorized person acting on behalf of any of them;

- (13) ***"Electronic reporting" means the use of technology, having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities, by which an individual or other entity submits, compiles, or transmits campaign finance reports to the registry, or by which the registry receives, stores, analyzes, or discloses the reports;***
- (14) ***"Security procedure" means a procedure employed for the purpose of verifying that an electronic signature, record, or performance is that of a specific person or for detecting changes or errors in the information in an electronic record. The term includes a procedure that requires the use of algorithms or other codes, identifying words or numbers, encryption, or callback or other acknowledgment procedures;***
- (15) ***"Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record;***
- (16) ***"Filer" means any candidate, committee, or other individual or entity required to submit financial disclosure reports to the registry; and***
- (17) ***"Filer-side software" means software provided to or used by the filer that enables transmittal of financial reports to the registry.***

Section 3. KRS 121.120 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The registry may:
  - (a) Require by special or general orders, any person to submit, under oath, any written reports and answers to questions as the registry may prescribe;
  - (b) Administer oaths or affirmations;
  - (c) Require by subpoena, signed by the chairman, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all documentary evidence, excluding individual and business income tax records, relating to the execution of its duties;
  - (d) In any proceeding or investigation, to order testimony to be taken by deposition before any person who is designated by the registry and has the power to administer oaths and, in those instances, to compel testimony and the production of evidence in the same manner as authorized under paragraph (c);
  - (e) Initiate, through civil actions for injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate relief, defend, or appeal any civil action in the name of the registry to enforce the provisions of this chapter through its legal counsel;
  - (f) Render advisory opinions under KRS 121.135;
  - (g) Promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

- (h) Conduct investigations and hearings expeditiously, to encourage voluntary compliance, and report apparent campaign finance law violations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities;
  - (i) Petition any court of competent jurisdiction to issue an order requiring compliance with an order or subpoena issued by the registry. Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as contempt; and
  - (j) Conduct random audits of receipts and expenditures of committees which have filed registration papers with the registry pursuant to KRS 121.170.
- (2) No person shall be subject to civil liability to any person other than the registry or the Commonwealth for disclosing information at the request of the registry.
- (3) The registry may appoint a full-time executive director, legal counsel, and an accountant for auditing purposes, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the registry. The registry may also appoint such other employees as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. All requests for personnel appointments shall be forwarded by the registry directly to the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet and shall be subject to his review and certification only.
- (4) The registry shall adopt official forms and perform other duties necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter and KRS Chapter 121A. The registry shall not require the listing of a person's Social Security number on any form developed by the registry. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the registry shall:
- (a) Develop prescribed forms for the making of the required reports;
  - (b) Prepare and publish a manual for all candidates, slates of candidates, and committees, describing the requirements of the law, including uniform methods of bookkeeping and reporting, requirements as to reporting dates, and the length of time that candidates, slates of candidates, and committees are required to keep any records pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and KRS Chapter 121A;
  - (c) Develop a filing, coding, and cross-indexing system;
  - (d) Make each report filed available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours at the expense of any person requesting copies of them;
  - (e) Preserve all reports for at least six (6) years from the date of receipt. Duly certified reports shall be admissible as evidence in any court in the Commonwealth;
  - (f) Prepare and make available for public inspection a summary of all reports grouped according to candidates, slates of candidates, committees, contributing organizations, parties, and exploratory committees as defined in KRS 121A.010(9)(e) containing the total receipts and expenditures; and
    - 1. For each contribution made by a permanent committee of any amount to a candidate, slate of candidates, or exploratory committee, the date, name, and business address of the permanent committee, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
    - 2. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) made to a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, to a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected

state office, or to an exploratory committee, the date, name, address, occupation, and employer of each contributor and the spouse of the contributor or, if the contributor or spouse of the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount contributed by each contributor, listed alphabetically; and

3. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) made to any candidate or campaign committee other than those specified in subparagraph 2., the date, name, address, occupation, and employer of each other contributor or, if the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount contributed by each contributor, listed alphabetically;
- (g) Prepare and publish an annual report with cumulative compilations named in paragraph (f) of this subsection;
  - (h) Distribute upon request, for a nominal fee, copies of all summaries and reports;
  - (i) Determine whether the required reports have been filed and if so, whether they conform with the requirements of this chapter and KRS Chapter 121A; give notice to delinquents to correct or explain defections; issue an order, if appropriate, as provided in KRS 121.140; and make public the fact that a violation has occurred and the nature thereof;
  - (j) Conduct random audits of receipts and expenditures of candidates running for city, county, urban-county government, charter county government, and district offices. When the registry audits the records of any selected candidate, it shall also audit the records of all other candidates running for the same office in the selected city, county, urban-county government, charter county government, or district office;
  - (k) Conduct audits of receipts and expenditures of all candidates or slates of candidates running for statewide office;
  - (l) Require that candidates and slates of candidates shall maintain their records for a period of six (6) years from the date of the regular election in their respective political races;
  - (m) Initiate investigations and make investigations with respect to reports upon complaint by any person and initiate proceedings on its own motion;
  - (n) Forward to the Attorney General or the appropriate Commonwealth's or county attorney any violations of this chapter and KRS Chapter 121A which may become the subject of civil or criminal prosecution; and
  - (o) Direct and administer the provisions of KRS Chapter 121A.
- (5) All policy and enforcement decisions concerning the regulation of campaign finance shall be the ultimate responsibility of the registry. No appointed or elected state officeholder or any other person shall, directly or indirectly, attempt to secure or create privileges, exemptions, or advantages for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large in a manner that seeks to leave any registry member or employee charged with the enforcement of the campaign finance laws no alternative but to comply with the wishes of the officeholder or person. Registry members and employees shall be free of obligation or the appearance of obligation to any interest other than the fair and efficient enforcement of the campaign finance laws and administrative regulations. It shall not be considered a violation of this subsection

for an officeholder or other person to seek remedies in a court of law to any policy or enforcement decision he considers to be an abridgement of his legal rights.

- (6) *If adequate and appropriate agency funds are available, the registry shall:*
- (a) *Develop or acquire a system for electronic reporting for use by individuals and entities required to file campaign finance reports with the registry under this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A. The registry shall promulgate administrative regulations under KRS Chapter 13A which provide for a nonproprietary standardized format or formats, using industry standards, for the transmission of data required under this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A;*
  - (b) *Accept test files from software vendors and persons wishing to file reports electronically for the purpose of determining whether the file format complies with the nonproprietary standardized format developed under paragraph (a) of this subsection and is compatible with the registry's system for receiving the data;*
  - (c) *Make all paper or electronic reports filed with the registry pertaining to candidates for the General Assembly and statewide office available on the Internet free of charge, in an easily understood format that allows the public to browse, search, and download the data contained in the reports by each of the reporting categories required by this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A, including, but not limited to:*
    - 1. *The name of each candidate or committee;*
    - 2. *The office sought by each candidate;*
    - 3. *The name of each contributor;*
    - 4. *The address of each contributor;*
    - 5. *The employer or business occupation of each contributor, or if the contributor is a permanent committee, a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;* 6. *The date of each contribution; and*
    - 7. *The amount of each contribution.*
  - (d) *Make all data specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection available on the Internet no later than ten (10) business days after its receipt by the registry. If a contribution or expenditure report is filed late with the registry, that data shall be made available on the Internet within twenty-four (24) hours of the registry's receipt of the data;*
  - (e) *Make filer-side software available free of charge to all individuals or entities subject to the reporting requirements of this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A;*
  - (f) *Establish a training program on the electronic reporting program and make it available free of charge to all individuals and entities subject to the reporting requirements of this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A; and*
  - (g) *Maintain all campaign finance data pertaining to legislative and statewide candidates on-line for twenty (20) years after the date the report containing the data is filed, and then archive the data in a secure format.*
- (7) *In conjunction with the program of electronic reporting set out in subsection (6) of this section, the registry may:*

- (a) *Develop or acquire a computer system that provides for on-line Internet submission of the reports required by this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A utilizing security procedures to ensure the integrity of the data transmitted; and*
- (b) *Provide procedures for verifying electronic signatures placed upon reports under this chapter or KRS Chapter 121A.*

Section 4. KRS 121.150 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) No contribution shall be made or received, directly or indirectly, other than an independent expenditure, to support inauguration activities or to support or defeat a candidate, slate of candidates, constitutional amendment, or public question which will appear on the ballot in an election, except through the duly appointed campaign manager, or campaign treasurer of the candidate, slate of candidates, or registered committee. Any person making an independent expenditure, shall report these expenditures when the expenditures by that person exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate in any one (1) election, on a form provided *or using a format approved* by the registry and shall sign a statement on the form, under penalty of perjury, that the expenditure was an actual independent expenditure and that there was no prior communication with the campaign on whose behalf it was made.
- (2) Except as provided in KRS 121.180(10), the solicitation from and contributions by campaign committees, political issues committees, permanent committees, and party executive committees to any religious, charitable, civic, eleemosynary, or other causes or organizations established primarily for the public good is expressly prohibited; except that it shall not be construed as a violation of this section for a candidate to contribute to religious, civic, or charitable groups.
- (3) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone acting on their behalf, shall accept any anonymous contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50), and all anonymous contributions in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) shall be returned to the donor, if the donor can be determined. If no donor is found, the contribution shall escheat to the state and be transferred to the election campaign fund established by KRS 121A.020. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone acting on their behalf shall accept anonymous contributions in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the aggregate in any one (1) election. Anonymous contributions in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the aggregate which are received in any one (1) election shall escheat to the state and be transferred to the election campaign fund established by KRS 121A.020.
- (4) No candidate, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept a cash contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) in the aggregate from each contributor in any one (1) election. No candidate, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept a cashier's check or money order in excess of the maximum cash contribution limit unless the instrument clearly identifies both the payor and the payee. A contribution made by cashier's check or money order which identifies both the payor and payee shall be treated as a contribution made by check for purposes of the contribution limits contained in this section. No person shall make a cash contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) in the aggregate in any one (1) election to a candidate, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf.
- (5) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept any contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) from any person



who shall not become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the next general election.

- (6) No candidate, campaign committee, political issues committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, shall accept a contribution of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from any person, permanent committee, or contributing organization in any one (1) election; except that no candidate for school board, his campaign committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf shall accept a contribution of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) from any person or more than two hundred dollars (\$200) from any permanent committee or contributing organization in any one (1) election. No person, permanent committee, or contributing organization shall contribute more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to any one (1) candidate, campaign committee, political issues committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, in any one (1) election; except that no person shall contribute more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and no permanent committee or contributing organization shall contribute more than two hundred dollars (\$200) to any one (1) school board candidate, his campaign committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, in any one (1) election. Limits on contributions for slates of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor which may be made or received in any one (1) election shall be governed by the provisions of KRS 121A.050.
- (7) Permanent committees or contributing organizations affiliated by bylaw structure or by registration, as determined by the Registry of Election Finance, shall be considered as one (1) committee for purposes of applying the contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (8) No permanent committee shall contribute funds to another permanent committee for the purpose of circumventing contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (9) No person shall contribute funds to a permanent committee, political issues committee, or contributing organization for the purpose of circumventing the contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (10) No person shall contribute more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) to all permanent committees and contributing organizations in any one (1) year.
- (11) No person shall contribute more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to the state executive committee of a political party and its subdivisions and affiliates in any one (1) year. Contributions a person makes to a political party in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in any one (1) year shall be deposited in a separate account which the state executive committee maintains for the exclusive purpose of paying administrative costs incurred by the political party.
- (12) No person shall make a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money to another person to contribute to a candidate, committee, contributing organization, or anyone on their behalf. No candidate, committee, contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf shall accept a contribution made by one (1) person who has received a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money from another person to contribute to a candidate, committee, contributing organization, or anyone on their behalf.
- (13) No candidates running as a slate for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall make combined total personal loans to their committee in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in any one (1) election. No candidate for any other statewide elected state office shall lend to his committee any amount in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)

in any one (1) election. In campaigning for all other offices, no candidate shall lend to his committee more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any one (1) election.

- (14) Subject to the provisions of subsection (20) of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for nomination to any state, county, city, or district office, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for primary election expenses after the date of the primary. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for primary election expenses after the date of the primary.
- (15) Subject to the provisions of subsection (20) of this section, no slate of candidates for nomination for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, nor its campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for runoff primary election expenses after the date of the runoff primary. No person other than the slated candidates shall contribute for runoff primary election expenses after the date of the runoff primary.
- (16) Subject to the provisions of subsection (20) of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for any state, county, city, or district office at a regular election, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for regular election expenses after the date of the regular election. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for regular election expenses after the date of the regular election.
- (17) Subject to the provisions of subsection (20) of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for nomination or election to any state, county, city, or district office, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for special election expenses after the date of the special election. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for special election expenses after the date of the special election.
- (18) Nothing in subsections (14) to (17) of this section shall be deemed to prohibit a slate of candidates from receiving transfers from the election campaign fund established by KRS 121A.020 for which it is eligible for matches of qualifying contributions received prior to the date of the election but for which no transfer from the fund had been made prior to the date of the election.
- (19) The provisions of subsections (14) and (16) of this section shall apply only to those candidates in a primary or regular election which shall be conducted subsequent to January 1, 1989. The provisions of subsections (15) and (17) of this section shall apply only to those candidates or slates of candidates in a runoff primary or special election which shall be conducted subsequent to January 1, 1993.
- (20) A candidate, slate of candidates, or a campaign committee may solicit and accept contributions after the date of a primary election, runoff primary election, regular election, or special election to defray necessary expenses that arise after the date of the election associated with election contests, recounts, and recanvasses of a specific election, complaints regarding alleged campaign finance violations that are filed with the registry pertaining to a specific election, or other legal actions pertaining to a specific election to which a candidate, slate of candidates, or campaign committee is a party. Reports of contributions received and expenditures made after the date of the specific election shall be made in accordance with KRS 121.180.

- (21) No slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor or their immediate families shall loan any money, service, or other thing of value to their campaign, and all moneys, services, or other things of value which are loaned shall be deemed a contribution, which may not be recovered by the slate of candidates, except to the extent of a combined total of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).
- (22) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, except a political issues committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall knowingly accept a contribution from a corporation, directly or indirectly.
- (23) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the ability of a corporation to administer its permanent committee insofar as its actions can be deemed not to influence an election as prohibited by KRS 121.025.
- (24) In addition to the prohibitions set forth in this section, no slate of candidates shall accept any contribution during the twenty-eight (28) days immediately preceding a primary or regular election except as provided in KRS 121A.030(5).
- (25) No candidate, slate of candidates, or committee, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit a contribution of money or services from a state employee, whether or not the employee is covered by the classified service provisions of KRS Chapter 18A. However, it shall not be a violation of this subsection for a state employee to receive a solicitation directed to him as a registered voter in an identified precinct as part of an overall plan to contact voters not identified as state employees.
- (26) (a) A candidate for elective public office, except slates of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, shall not accept contributions from permanent committees which, in the aggregate, exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total contributions accepted by the candidate in any one (1) election or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any one (1) election, whichever is the greater amount. The percentage of the total contributions or dollar amounts of contributions accepted by a candidate in an election that is accepted from permanent committees shall be calculated as of the day of each election. Funds in a candidate's campaign account which are carried forward from one (1) election to another shall not be considered in calculating the acceptable percentage or dollar amount of contributions which may be accepted from permanent committees for the election for which the funds are carried forward. A candidate may, without penalty, contribute funds to his campaign account not later than sixty (60) days following the election so as not to exceed the permitted percentage or dollar amount of contributions which may be accepted from permanent committees or the candidate may, not later than sixty (60) days after the end of the election, refund any excess permanent committee contributions on a pro rata basis to the permanent committees whose contributions are accepted after the aggregate limit has been reached.  
(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection regarding the receipt of aggregate contributions from permanent committees in any one (1) election shall also apply separately to the receipt of aggregate contributions from executive committees of any county, district, state, or federal political party in any one (1) election.
- (27) No candidate or slate of candidates for any office in this state shall accept a contribution, including an in-kind contribution, which is made from funds in a federal campaign account. No person shall make a contribution, including an in-kind contribution, from funds in a federal campaign account to any candidate or slate of candidates for any office in this state.

Section 5. KRS 121.180 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) Any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee shall be exempt from filing any preelection finance reports required by subsection (3) of this section or KRS 121A.020(5), whichever is applicable, if the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman files a form prescribed and furnished by the registry stating that contributions will not be accepted or expended in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election to further the candidacy or to support or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which will appear on the ballot. For a candidate for judicial office who desires to be exempt from filing preelection campaign finance reports as provided in this paragraph, the request for exemption shall be filed by the campaign treasurer of the candidate's campaign committee, but the candidate shall be personally liable for any violation if the campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the limit and shall be subject to the same penalties as a candidate as provided in subparagraph (1)1. or 2. of this subsection. A separate form shall be required for each primary, runoff primary, regular, or special election in which the candidate or slate of candidates participates or in which the public question appears on the ballot, unless the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman indicates on a request for exemption that the request will be applicable to more than one (1) election. The form shall be filed with the same office with which a candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers or, in the case of a political issues committee, with the registry.
- (b) Any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee shall be exempt from filing any campaign finance reports required by subsections (3) and (4) of this section or KRS 121A.020(5), whichever is applicable, if the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman files a form prescribed and furnished by the registry stating that currently no contributions have been received and that contributions will not be accepted or expended in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in any one (1) election. For a candidate for judicial office who desires to be exempt from filing any campaign finance reports as provided in this paragraph, the request for exemption shall be filed by the campaign treasurer of the candidate's campaign committee, but the candidate shall be personally liable for any violation if the campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the limit and shall be subject to the same penalties as a candidate as provided in subparagraph (1)1. or 2. of this subsection. A separate form shall be required for each primary, runoff primary, regular, or special election in which the candidate or slate of candidates participates or in which the public question appears on the ballot, unless the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman indicates on a request for exemption that the request will be applicable to more than one (1) election. The form shall be filed with the same office with which a candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers or, in the case of a political issues committee, with the registry.
- (c) For a primary election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file a request for exemption not later than the deadline for filing nomination papers and, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline. For a runoff primary election, a slate of candidates shall file its request for exemption not later than five (5) days after the date of the preceding primary election

and shall be bound by its terms unless rescinded in writing not later than ten (10) days after the date of the preceding primary election. For a regular election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file or rescind in writing a request for exemption not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date of the preceding primary election, or runoff primary, if one is held, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection. For a special election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file a request for exemption not later than ten (10) days after the candidate or slate of candidates is nominated for a special election and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date on which the nomination for a special election is made. A political issues committee chairman shall file a request for exemption not later than ten (10) days after the date on which the committee registers with the registry and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the date on which the request for exemption is filed.

- (d)
  1. A candidate or slate of candidates that revokes a request for exemption in a timely manner may exercise the remaining option or may file all reports required of a candidate intending to raise or spend in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in an election. If a candidate or slate of candidates elects to exercise a different option, the candidate or slate of candidates shall file the appropriate form with the officer who received the filing papers of the candidate or slate of candidates not later than the deadline for filing a revocation.
  2. A candidate for any city or county office or for any school board office, who is exempted from some or all campaign finance reporting requirements pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection but who accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the exempted amount in an election, shall file all applicable reports required for the remainder of that election, based upon the amount of contributions or expenditures the candidate accepts or receives in that election. The filing of applicable required reports by a candidate after the exempted amount is exceeded shall serve as notice to the registry that the initial exemption has been rescinded. No further notice to the registry shall be required and no penalty for exceeding the initial exempted amount shall be imposed against the candidate, except for failure to file applicable reports required after the exempted amount is exceeded.
- (e) Any candidate or slate of candidates that is subject to an August filing deadline and that intends to execute a request for exemption shall file the appropriate request for exemption not later than the filing deadline and, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline. A candidate or slate of candidates that is covered by this paragraph shall have the same reversion rights as those provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.
- (f) Any candidate or slate of candidates that will appear on the ballot in a regular election that has signed either request for exemption for that election may exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection if a candidate or slate of candidates that is subject to an August filing deadline subsequently files in opposition to the candidate or slate of candidates. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a candidate or slate of candidates covered by this

paragraph shall comply with the deadline for rescission provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

- (g) Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption for a regular election that later is opposed by a person who has filed a declaration of intent to receive write-in votes may rescind the request for exemption and exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.
- (h) Any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption may petition the registry to determine whether another person is campaigning as a write-in candidate prior to having filed a declaration of intent to receive write-in votes, and, if the registry determines upon a preponderance of the evidence that a person who may later be a write-in candidate is conducting a campaign, the candidate or slate of candidates, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, may petition the registry to permit the candidate or slate of candidates to exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.
- (i) If the opponent of a candidate or slate of candidates is replaced due to his withdrawal because of death, disability, or disqualification, the candidate or slate of candidates, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, may exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection not later than fifteen (15) days after the party executive committee nominates a replacement for the withdrawn candidate or slate of candidates.
- (j) A person intending to be a write-in candidate for any office in a regular or special election may execute a request for exemption under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline for the regular or special election. A person intending to be a write-in candidate who revokes a request for exemption in a timely manner may exercise the remaining exemption option or may file all reports required of a candidate intending to raise or spend in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in an election. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a person intending to be a write-in candidate who elects to exercise a different exemption option shall file the appropriate form with the officer who received the initial request for exemption not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline for the regular or special election.
- (k) Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, the campaign committee of any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption or a political issues committee whose chairman has filed a request for exemption shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in a timely manner and no new request for exemption has been executed.
- (l) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee that is exempt from filing campaign finance reports pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (e), or (j) of this subsection that accepts contributions or makes expenditures, or whose campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures, in excess of the applicable limit in any one (1)

election without rescinding the request for exemption in a timely manner shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements and, in

lieu of other penalties prescribed by law, pay a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) plus the amount by which the spending limit was exceeded.

2. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or political issues committee that is exempt from filing campaign finance reports pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (e), or (j) of this subsection that knowingly accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the applicable spending limit in any one (1) election without rescinding the request for exemption in a timely manner shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements and shall be guilty of a Class D felony.
- (2) (a) State and county executive committees shall make a full report, upon a prescribed form, to the registry, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received from any source, and expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, since the date of the last report, including:
1. For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
  2. For other contributions in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100), the full name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;
  3. The total amount of cash contributions received during the reporting period; and
  4. A complete statement of expenditures authorized, incurred, or made. The complete statement of expenditures shall include the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25), and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.
- (b) This report shall be in the hands of the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after the thirtieth day following the primary, runoff primary if slates of candidates of that party participate, and regular elections. If an individual gives a reportable contribution to a state or county executive committee with the intention that the contribution or a portion of the contribution go to a candidate or slate of candidates, the name of the contributor and the sum shall be indicated on the committee report. The receipts and expenditures of funds remitted to each political party under KRS 141.071 to 141.073 shall be separately accounted for and reported to the registry in the manner required by KRS 121.230. The separate report may be made a separate section within the report required, by this subsection, to be in the hands of the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after the thirtieth day following each regular election.
- (3) (a) Except for candidates or slates of candidates, campaign committees, or political issues committees exempted from reporting requirements pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, each campaign treasurer of a candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or political

issues committee who accepts contributions or expends, expects to accept contributions or expend, or contracts to expend more than three

thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election, and each fundraiser who secures contributions in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election, shall make a full report~~[, upon a prescribed form,]~~ to the registry, ***on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry***, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received from any source, and expenditures authorized, incurred, and made, since the date of the last report, including:

1. For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
  2. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) made to a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, or to a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, the date, name, address, occupation, and employer of each contributor and the spouse of the contributor or, if the contributor or spouse of the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount contributed by each contributor; and
  3. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) made to any candidate or campaign committee other than those specified in subparagraph 2. or a political issues committee, the full name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each other contributor. If the contributor is selfemployed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;
  4. The total amount of cash contributions received during the reporting period; and
  5. A complete statement of all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made. The complete statement of expenditures shall include the name, address, and occupation of each person to whom an expenditure is made in excess of twentyfive dollars (\$25), and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.
- (b) Reports of all candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall be made as follows:
1. Candidates as defined in KRS 121.015(8), campaign committees, political issues committees, and fundraisers which register in the year before the year an election in which the candidate or public question shall appear on the ballot, shall file financial reports with the registry at the end of the first calendar quarter after the person becomes a candidate or following registration of the committee or fundraiser, and each calendar quarter thereafter, ending with the last calendar quarter of that year. Candidates, committees, and registered fundraisers shall make all reports required by this section during the year in which the election takes place;



2. All candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make reports on the thirty-second day preceding an election, including all previous contributions and expenditures;
  3. All candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make reports on the fifteenth day preceding the date of the election; and
  4. All reports to the registry shall be **received by** ~~in the hands of~~ the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after each filing deadline.
- (4) Except for candidates, slates of candidates, and political issues committees, exempted pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section, all candidates, regardless of funds received or expended, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make post-election reports within thirty (30) days after the election.
- (5) In making the preceding reports, the total gross receipts from each of the following categories shall be listed: proceeds from the sale of tickets for events such as testimonial affairs, dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar fundraising events, mass collections made at the events, and sales of items such as campaign pins, buttons, hats, ties, literature, and similar materials. When any individual purchase or the aggregate purchases of any item enumerated above from a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100), the purchaser shall be identified by name, address, age, if less than the legal voting age, occupation, and employer and the employer of the spouse of the purchaser or, if the purchaser or the spouse of the purchaser is selfemployed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount of the purchase. When any individual purchase or the aggregate purchases of any item enumerated above from any candidate or campaign committee other than a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100), the purchaser shall be identified by name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, occupation, and employer, or if the purchaser is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount of the purchase. The lists shall be maintained by the campaign treasurer, political issues committee treasurer, registered fundraiser, or other sponsor for inspection by the registry for six (6) years following the date of the election.
- (6) Each permanent committee, except a federally-registered out-of-state permanent committee, inaugural committee, or contributing organization shall make a full report ~~upon a prescribed form,~~ to the registry, **on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry**, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received by it from any source, and all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, since the date of the last report, including:
- (a) For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
  - (b) For other contributions in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100), the full name, address, age if under the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the

contribution, and the employer and occupation of each contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;

- (c) An aggregate amount of cash contributions, the amount contributed by each contributor, and the date of each contribution; and
  - (d) A complete statement of all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, including independent expenditures. This report shall be made by a permanent committee, inaugural committee, or contributing organization to the registry on the last day of the first calendar quarter following the registration of the committee with the registry and on the last day of each succeeding calendar quarter until such time as the committee terminates. A contributing organization shall file a report of contributions received and expenditures *on a form provided or using a format approved* ~~made on forms prescribed~~ by the registry not later than the last day of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made. All reports to the registry shall be postmarked or received not later than five (5) days after each filing deadline.
- (7) If the final statement of a candidate, campaign committee, or political issues committee shows an unexpended balance of contributions, continuing debts and obligations, or an expenditure deficit, the campaign treasurer shall file with the registry a supplemental statement of contributions and expenditures not more than thirty (30) days after the deadline for filing the final statement. Subsequent supplemental statements shall be filed annually, to be *received by* ~~in the hands of~~ the registry or postmarked not later than ten (10) days after November 1 of each year, until the account shows no unexpended balance, continuing debts and obligations, expenditures, or deficit, or until the year before the candidate seeks to appear on the ballot for the same office for which the funds in the campaign account were originally contributed, in which case the candidate shall file the supplemental annual report not later than ten (10) days after November 1 of that year or at the end of the first calendar quarter of that year after the candidate files his nomination papers for the next year's primary or regular election. All contributions shall be subject to KRS 121.150.
- (8) All reports filed under the provisions of this chapter shall be a matter of public record open to inspection by any member of the public immediately upon receipt of the report by the registry. A duplicate *paper* copy of each report filed *either on paper or electronically* with the registry shall be filed by the candidate, slate of candidates, or committee with the county clerk in the county in which the candidate or persons running as a slate of candidates reside at the same time. County clerks shall maintain these reports for public inspection for a period of one (1) year from the date the last report is required to be filed.
- (9) A candidate or slate of candidates is relieved of the duty personally to file reports and keep records of receipts and expenditures if the candidate or slate states in writing or on forms provided by the registry that:
- (a) Within five (5) business days after personally receiving any contributions, the candidate or slate of candidates shall surrender possession of the contributions to the treasurer of their principal campaign committee without expending any of the proceeds thereof. No contributions shall be commingled with the candidate's or slated candidates' personal funds or accounts. Contributions received by check, money order, or other written instrument shall be endorsed directly to the campaign committee and shall not be cashed or redeemed by the candidate;

- (b) The candidate or slate of candidates shall not make any unreimbursed expenditure for the campaign, except that this paragraph does not preclude a candidate or slate from making an expenditure from personal funds to the designated principal campaign committee, which shall be reported by the committee as a contribution received; and
  - (c) The waiver shall continue in effect as long as the candidate or slate of candidates complies with the conditions under which it was granted.
- (10) No candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, political issues committee, or contributing organization shall use or permit the use of contributions or funds solicited or received for the person or in support of or opposition to a public issue which will appear on the ballot to further the candidacy of the person for a different public office, to support or oppose a different public issue, or to further the candidacy of any other person for public office; except that nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to prohibit a candidate or slate of candidates from using funds in the campaign account to purchase admission tickets for any fundraising event or testimonial affair for another candidate or slate of candidates if the amount of the purchase does not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per event or affair. Any funds or contributions solicited or received by or on behalf of a candidate, slate of candidates, or any committee, which has been organized in whole or in part to further any candidacy for the same person or to support or oppose the same public issue, shall be deemed to have been solicited or received for the current candidacy or for the election on the public issue if the funds or contributions are solicited or received at any time prior to the regular election for which the candidate, slate of candidates, or public issue is on the ballot. Except as provided in KRS 121A.080(6), any unexpended balance of funds not otherwise obligated for the payment of expenses incurred to further a political issue or the candidacy of a person shall, in whole or in part, at the election of the candidate or committee, escheat to the State Treasury, be returned pro rata to all contributors, or, in the case of a partisan candidate, be transferred to the state or county executive committee of the political party of which the candidate is a member except that a candidate, committee, or an official may retain the funds to further the same public issue or to seek election to the same office or may donate the funds to any charitable, nonprofit, or educational institution recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any successor thereto.
- (11)
  - (a) Any publisher of newspapers or magazines, owner or lessor of billboards, or any other person, company, corporation, or business organization offering its communications or advertising services for hire to the public who receives funds for the purchase of advertising services or material, shall file with the registry a copy of the material or communication purchased which supports or opposes any slate of candidates or committee; a copy of the receipt for the funds paid; the name and address of each purchaser; and the source of the funds for the purchase if different than the purchaser.
  - (b) A radio or television station or network that receives funds for the purchase of advertising services or material that supports or opposes a slate of candidates or committee shall file with the registry a copy of the documentation of paid political campaign advertisements that is required to be maintained by the Federal Communications Commission, along with a cover letter from the manager of the station or network or the manager's designee.
  - (c) All information required to be reported by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection shall be in the hands of the registry or postmarked not later than the thirtieth day following

the primary, runoff primary, and regular elections that are held subsequent to the date that the broadcasting or printing of the advertisement occurs.

- (d) The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to purchases of advertising services or material to support or oppose a slate of candidates for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
  - (e) Notwithstanding KRS 121.990 and KRS 121A.990, penalties for violation of this subsection shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of KRS 121.140(2).
- (12) *(a) For the purposes of this subsection, "election cycle," as applied to contributions, expenditures, or loans to support or oppose a candidate for a particular office, means the period of time beginning January 1 following a regular election for the office and ending December 31 following the next regular election for that office.*
- (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "election cycle," as applied to contributions, expenditures, or loans to support or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which appears on the ballot, means the period of time beginning January 1 following a regular election for any state legislative office and ending December 31 following the next regular election for any state legislative office.*
- (c) If adequate and appropriate agency funds are available to implement this subsection, beginning on January 1, 2002, the option of electronic reporting shall be made available by the registry for all of the following:*
- 1. Candidates for statewide office and slates of candidates that during the election cycle receive contributions or loans in the aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more, or at any time have a balance in a campaign account or accounts in the aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more;*
  - 2. Candidates for the General Assembly that during the election cycle receive contributions or loans in the aggregate of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500), or at any time have a balance in an aggregate of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) or more; and*
  - 3. Campaign committees, political issues committees, permanent committees, registered fundraisers, contributing organizations, and individuals and entities making independent expenditures that during the election cycle receive contributions or loans in an aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more, make expenditures in an aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more, or at any time have a balance in an aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more.*
- (13) *Filers specified in subsection (12) of this section shall also continue to file required campaign finance reports in paper format until the registry deems it is no longer necessary. The paper copy shall continue to be the official version for audit and other legal purposes.*
- (14) *Filers not required to file reports electronically, as set forth in this section, are strongly encouraged to do so voluntarily.*
- (15) *The date that an electronic or on-line report shall be deemed to have been filed with the registry shall be the date on which it is received by the registry.*

- (16) *All electronic or on-line filers shall affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the report filed with the registry is complete and accurate.*
- (17) *Filers who submit computer disks which are not readable, cannot be copied, or are not accompanied by any requisite paper copy shall be deemed to not be in compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.*
- (18) *No candidate is obligated to file any reports electronically.*

**Approved April 10, 2000**