

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

Although the law does not require a candidate to have a political committee organized on their behalf, many candidates have one. If a committee is formed, form CPF M101 should be filed with the Town Clerk's office as soon as the committee is organized.

Under the campaign finance laws, candidates and treasurers are required to file periodic campaign finance reports and are also responsible for the legality, validity, completeness and accuracy of their reports.

The following is a schedule for filing reports. These reports must be filed regardless of whether or not money has been raised or expended during the reporting period and whether or not the candidate is nominated or elected. Each report must be received by the Town Clerk's office before the close of business on the day the report is due.

Reports are due eight days before and 30 days after the election. A subsequent, year-end report is required for incumbents and candidates or committees that have continuing balances or liabilities or did not dissolve for the post-election report. The year-end report is due in January.

It is the responsibility of all those participating in political campaign financing to become familiar with the provisions of the law. Violations can carry serious penalties. The Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) is responsible for administering the campaign finance law. OCPF is available to assist individuals in understanding and complying with the statute. For additional information you can contact the OCPF at 617-727-8352 or 800-462-OCPF, fax 617-727-6549 or email at ocpf@cpf.state.ma.us.