



# CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE FAQS

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# 1. What's new in 2022 for School Board Candidates?

- In 2022 the following changes went into effect:
  - School Board terms are now 4 years, not 5 years in length.
  - A criminal background check and Child Protection Registry Check are required.
- Campaign Finance laws have changed. Filing a candidate committee and campaign finance reports are now required if you collect or expend more than \$5,000 in a School Board campaign.
- Detailed information is available in the school board filing packet:  
[https://elections.delaware.gov/pubs/school\\_board\\_filing\\_packet.pdf](https://elections.delaware.gov/pubs/school_board_filing_packet.pdf)

## 2. How do I find out about how to get on the ballot as a candidate?

- Elections provides information on our website at [https://elections.delaware.gov/candidate/get on ballot](https://elections.delaware.gov/candidate/get_on_ballot)

- . You may also email, call, or visit an Elections Office.

### **3. If I want to run as a candidate of one of the major political parties in the next election, how soon can I file for office?**

- You may file for office as soon as the parties set their filing fees. The deadline for parties to submit their filing fees to the State Election Commissioner and County Offices is July 1 of the election year.

#### **4. I want to get on the ballot as a candidate. At which Elections Office do I file?**

- For Statewide Offices, you must file at the State Election Commissioner's Office in Dover.
- For all other offices on the ballot, candidates must file at the Department of Elections Office in the county in which the candidate lives.

## 5. Can I hand in/submit my Campaign Finance forms to my County Elections Office?

- No. All campaign finance matters and materials are the responsibility of the State Election Commissioner Office's Campaign Finance team. Check <https://elections.delaware.gov> for more information. Please contact the CF team at 302-739-4277 or by emailing [COE\\_CampaignFinance@delaware.gov](mailto:COE_CampaignFinance@delaware.gov).

## **6. Our campaign committee wants to hold a raffle to raise money. Can we do that?**

- No. The Delaware Gaming Control Board has determined as a matter of law (Article 11, '17A and 17B of the Delaware State Constitution) no candidate committee, political action committee, political committee or political party may conduct any type of gaming activity (e.g. bingo, casino night, raffle, lottery, etc.).

**7. Do we have to put the words, “Paid for by the Committee or Person’s Name” on our campaign signs or radio ads?**

- I am going to refer you to the Delaware Code, Chapter 80 Subchapter 3, entitled “Expenditures” for the details.



## 8. Are campaign funds subject to income taxes?

- Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code states that political organizations are exempt from federal income taxes. In some cases, committees become subject to taxation under the ordinary course of business or trade, for example, earned income derived from campaign funds. Contact the IRS office nearest you for more information including determining the correct form and the March filing deadline. You may read more about it online at the [Office of Law Revision Counsel](#).

## 9. I am a lobbyist; do I file with the State Election Commissioner?

- No, you must file and report with the Public Integrity Commission.

**10. I am a candidate for a Federal office. Do I file reports with the State of Delaware Commissioner of Elections Office?**

- No, you must establish and file reports with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

## 11. What are the rules about signs?

- Let me refer you to the Campaign Signage handout or our website <https://elections.delaware.gov>.

**12. I haven't had any transactions on my campaign finance account, or I've ended my campaign, or I don't intend to run for office again. Do I still need to file campaign finance reports?**

- Yes, as long as the committee remains open all campaign finance reports must be filed.

**13. I have closed my campaign bank account. Does this mean that the campaign finance account is closed, too?**

- No. Closing your bank account does not impact your campaign finance account. You must take action to close your campaign finance account. Before closing the CF account, you must file all required reports. Please contact the Commissioner's Office for help and information.