

## Article XIII. Campaign Finance

### Section 2.

#### Reporting of Contributions and Expenditures.

- a. A candidate, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, or political party that made or received a contribution or expenditure supporting a candidate for city council or mayor shall file with the commission and the Hamilton County Board of Elections a full, true, and itemized report of the contribution or expenditure in the manner and form required by the commission by not later than 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:
  - 1) The last business day of July of the election year to reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of June of that year; and
  - 2) The thirty-eighth day after the municipal general election to reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh day before the filing of the statement.

In addition to the two reports listed above, in the event a mayoral primary election is held, the two successful mayoral primary candidates shall file a full, true, and itemized report of contributions and/or expenditures in the manner and form required by the commission by not later than 4:00 p.m. on the seventh day after the mayoral primary election. This report shall reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the date of the mayoral primary election.

- b. A person required by state law or this section to file a report concerning a mayoral or council election shall also:
  - 1) Simultaneously file a copy of the report with the commission and the Hamilton County Board of Elections; and
  - 2) Include with the report the name, residence address and employer or, if self-employed, the occupation of a person contributing more than \$100 in the reporting period.
- c. Reporting of independent expenditures:
  - 1) Within 10 days of making independent expenditures totaling more than \$1,000 in a period specified in section 1a, b, or c, the person making the expenditures shall file a report of the expenditures with the commission and the Hamilton County Board of Elections in the manner and form required by the commission. If a portion of the

expenditures is made within 30 days of the election, the person shall file the report within 48 hours, and if made within 7 days of the election the person shall file the report within 24 hours.

- 2) If a person makes independent expenditures totaling more than \$3,000 and accepts a contribution to the expenditures over \$100, the person shall include in the report of the expenditures the name, residence address and employer or, if self-employed, the occupation of the contributor.

d. Penalties.

- 1) Contribution. When the commission chooses, in its discretion, to impose a penalty for making, soliciting, or accepting a contribution that exceeds the maximum permitted by this section, the penalty shall be a civil fine equal to three times the excess contribution.
- 2) Reporting. When the commission chooses, in its discretion, to impose ~~The a~~ penalty for failure to file a report required by 2(a) or 2(b) of this section, the penalty shall be is a civil fine of \$100 for each day of violation a) in a council election, \$100, and b)a civil fine of \$200 for each day of violation in a mayoral election, \$200. The commission may take into account any mitigating factors in its decision whether or not to impose a penalty for failure to file a report or filing an incomplete report.
- 3) A penalty under subsection (2) does not apply if an addendum supplying the required information is filed within the time established in section 4d.

e. Interim Reporting. In addition to the other reports required by Section 2, the currently serving mayor and members of council also shall report each instance when a contributor cumulatively contributes \$200 or more to the currently serving mayor or member of council, or their campaign committees or political action committees, during the period between successive elections of members of council. Once a contributor has contributed \$200 or more to the currently serving mayor or member of council, or their campaign committees or political action committees, the currently serving mayor or member of council shall report each additional contribution made by such contributor during that period between successive elections of members of council, without regard to the amount of each additional contribution.

The reports required by the preceding paragraph shall be submitted through a public website maintained by the city administration by the third business day following receipt of a contribution subject to this requirement, excluding the calendar day on which the contribution is received. For purposes of this requirement, a contribution is deemed to be received on the first calendar day that the mayor or a member of council, or their campaign committee or political action committee, gains exclusive possession of such contribution, including but not limited to the day on which a check is delivered, the day a check is received in the mail, or the day an online contribution is made available to spend.