



Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
www.michigan.gov/sos

POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEE MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

[Michigan's Campaign Finance Act, P.A. 388 of 1976](#), as amended, promotes the public disclosure of political contributions and expenditures. The Secretary of State and the county clerks seek disclosure through voluntary compliance of candidates, groups and committees with the requirements of the Act.

The Act requires groups participating in Michigan elections to form and file committees. Committees are groups that receive contributions or make expenditures to influence voters for or against the nomination or election of a candidate, or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question. Exceptions are:

- An individual, other than a candidate, does not constitute a committee.
- A person, other than a committee registered under this act, making an expenditure to a ballot question committee as long as the person does not solicit or receive contributions for the purpose of making an expenditure to that ballot question committee.

The types of committees covered by the Act are:

Candidate Committees
Political and Independent Committees (PACs)
Ballot Question Committees
Political Party Committees

To register, a committee files a Statement of Organization. Statement of Organization forms can be obtained from the Department of State's Bureau of Elections in Lansing, from any county clerk or the Secretary of State's website at www.Michigan.gov/sos. Once a committee is registered, it may be required to file Campaign Statements and other reports to disclose the committee's campaign finance activity in Michigan elections.

The Campaign Finance Act specifies when and under what conditions a committee may be dissolved. A dissolved committee has no further filing obligations under the Act. All committees are encouraged to request dissolution when activity in the committee ends. A committee that has not been dissolved and does not have a Reporting Waiver must continue to file Campaign Statements as required by the Act.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to seek assistance from the Department of State's Bureau of Elections in Lansing. Possible violations can be avoided with early advice and use of instructional materials provided by the Department. When seeking specific legal advice, always rely on the Act and the Rules promulgated to administer the Act.

Contact us at:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
P.O. Box 20126
Lansing, Michigan 48901-0726
Phone: (517) 373 2540
Fax: (517) 241-4785

Visit us at:

Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing Michigan 48918
www.michigan.gov/sos

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<p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FORMING AND REGISTERING A POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEE</p>

POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS COVERED BY THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACT

As soon as a state level, congressional district level or county level political party organization as soon as it receives or spends \$500.00 or more in a calendar year to influence voters for or against the nomination or election of one or more candidates in Michigan or the qualification, passage or defeat of one or more ballot questions in Michigan it has 10 days to form and register a Political Party Committee.

The Michigan Campaign Finance Act provides for a political party to have one State Central Political Party Committee, one Congressional District Political Party Committee in each congressional district and one County Political Party Committee in each county. An organization that is not the official state level organization designated congressional district organization or county level organization of a political party is not permitted to register as a Political Party Committee under the Act.

REGISTERING THE COMMITTEE

A political party organization that is covered by the Act registers as a committee by filing a Statement of Organization with the Department of State's Bureau of Elections in Lansing. The Statement of Organization is the first Campaign Finance Form required to be filed by a Political Party Committee. Statement of Organization forms may be obtained from the Bureau of Elections or from the Secretary of State's website on the Internet.

The Statement of Organization form lists the type of Political Party Committee that has been formed, the committee's mailing and street addresses, the committee treasurer's name and address, the name and address of the person responsible for the committee's records and filings (designated record keeper) if these responsibilities will be handled by someone other than the treasurer, the depository where committee funds will be kept, and other related information. The treasurer signs the Statement of Organization.

Where To File

Political Party Committees must file all required campaign finance statements and reports with the:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
P.O. Box 20126
Lansing, Michigan 48901-0726

Office location: Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918-1700
Phone (517) 373-2540

KEEPING THE COMMITTEE’S STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION UP-TO-DATE

The information on the Statement of Organization must be kept up-to-date. If information listed on the form changes, an amendment to the form must be filed no later than the due date of the next Campaign Statement required after the change. The treasurer serving at the time of the change must sign the amended Statement of Organization. A committee may voluntarily file the required Statement of Organization amendments earlier if desired.

Dissolving a Committee – See [Appendix W](#)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS

A Political Party Committee discloses its campaign finance activity on Campaign Statements. A Campaign Statement consists of a cover page and a series of schedules that itemize the committee's contributions, receipts, expenditures and debts. Campaign Statement forms and instructions can be obtained from the Department of State's Bureau of Elections or the Secretary of State's website. Certain committees beginning in 2004 will be required to file their Campaign Statements electronically with the Bureau of Elections. See [Appendix D](#) for more information on this requirement.

THE REPORTING WAIVER

A Political Party Committee that does not expect to receive or spend more than \$1000.00 in a calendar year can obtain a reporting waiver by checking Item 10 on its Statement of Organization or an amended Statement of Organization. A committee that maintains a Reporting Waiver is exempt from filing detailed Campaign Statements unless it exceeds the \$1000.00 threshold. The Reporting Waiver is further explained in [Appendix C](#).

WHEN CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS ARE REQUIRED

A Political Party Committee that does not maintain a Reporting Waiver is required to file a Pre- and/or Post Campaign Statement if the committee participates in the election by making an expenditure to support or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate whose name appears on the ballot for that election or is a write-in candidate in that election; by making an expenditure to support or oppose the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question that appears on that ballot; or by making an expenditure for get-out-the-vote activity related to that election.

The Primary and General are separate elections. Pre-Election, Post Election and Annual Campaign Statements have closing dates, due dates and coverage periods detailed as follows:

Type of Statement	Closing Date of Statement	Statement Due Date
Pre-Election Campaign Statement	16 days before election	11 days before election
Post Election Campaign Statement	20 days after election	30 days after election
Annual Campaign Statement	December 31	January 31
Pre-Convention Campaign Statement	16 days before 1 st day of convention	11 days before 1 st day of convention
Post-Convention Campaign Statement	20 days after last day of convention	30 days after last day of convention

DEFINITION OF ELECTION

An “election” is defined as a primary, general, special, or millage election or recall vote held in Michigan, or a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate a candidate.

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT CLOSING DATES, DUE DATES AND COVERAGE DATES

Campaign Statements have specific coverage dates. The first Campaign Statement filed by a committee “opens” on the day the committee formed and extends through the “closing date” of the Statement that is due. Subsequent Campaign Statements “open” on the day after the last day covered by the previous statement filed by the committee and extend through the “closing date” of the Statement that is due. As the Campaign Statement that is due picks up where the last Campaign Statement left off, an Annual Campaign Statement may not cover the entire year *unless* the committee did not file any Campaign Statements during the previous year.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENT FILING EXEMPTION

A Political Party Committee that files a Post-General Campaign Statement due between December 1 and January 30 is not required to file the Annual Campaign Statement that is due on January 31 immediately following the Post-General. However, the committee would be required to file the Annual Campaign Statement that will be due on January 31 of subsequent years that cannot be waived.

EXAMPLES OF CAMPAIGN STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The examples below are offered as clarification in determining when a Political Party Committee may be required to file a Campaign Statement. The dates provided are for example only and do not reflect actual due dates of campaign statements.

A City General Election is scheduled for April 2, 2007. The close of books for the Pre-Election Campaign Statement is March 17 with a due date of March 22, 2007. The close of books for the Post-General Campaign Statement is April 22 with a due date of May 2, 2007.

A School Election is scheduled for June 11, 2007. The close of books for the Pre-School Campaign Statement is May 26 with a due date of May 31, 2007. The close of books for the Post-School Campaign Statement is July 1 with a due date of July 11, 2007.

The previous Campaign Statement filed by the Political Party Committee was the 2007 Annual Campaign Statement that had a closing date of December 31, 2006.

Scenario #1

On March 10, a Political Party Committee makes an expenditure as a direct contribution to the Candidate Committee of a candidate whose name appears on the ballot in the April 2 City General Election. On March 15, the committee makes an expenditure for the printing of a flyer in opposition to a candidate whose name appears on the ballot in the June 11 School Election. These are the only expenditures the committee makes during the year. As a result of this activity the committee is required to file the following Campaign Statements:

- Pre-General Campaign Statement, due on March 22, 2007. The committee reports both of the expenditures on the Pre-General Campaign Statement as they were both made during the coverage period for the Pre-General Statement (January 1, 2007 through March 17, 2007). The committee also reports all funds received into the political account during this period. The Post-General, Pre-School and Post-School Campaign Statements are not required as they would not show any additional expenditures relating to either election.
- 2002 Annual Campaign Statement, due on January 31, 2008, covering the period from March 18, 2007 through December 31, 2007. This report will show zero expenditures but will include all funds received during the coverage period.

Scenario #2

In this scenario the activity is the same except that the expenditure related to the City General Election is not made until March 27, 2007. Because of the timing of this expenditure, the Political Party Committee does not owe the Pre-General Campaign Statement as it has a closing date of March 17. Instead, the committee will file the following Campaign Statements:

- Post-General Campaign Statement, due on May 2, 2007. The Post-General Campaign Statement covers the period from January 1, 2007 through April 22, 2007 and would include both the March 27 expenditure related to the City General Election and the March 15 expenditure related to the School Election as they occurred during this period. The committee also reports all funds received into the political account during this period. The Pre-School and Post-School Campaign Statements are not required as they would not show any additional expenditures relating to the School Election.
- 2008 Annual Campaign Statement, due on January 31, 2008. This Statement will cover the period from April 23, 2007 through December 31, 2007. This report will show zero expenditures but will include all funds received during the coverage period.

Scenario #3

In scenario #3, expenditures related to the City General Election are made on March 10 and April 20. Expenditures related to the School Election are made on May 18 and June 1. The Political Party Committee will file the following Campaign Statements.

- Pre-Election Campaign Statement, due on March 22. The Committee will report the March 10 expenditure on this statement as the coverage period is from January 1 through March 17. The committee also reports all funds received into the political account during this period.
- Post-Election Campaign Statement, due on May 2. The Committee will report the April 20 expenditure on this statement as the coverage period is from March 18 through April 22. The committee also reports all funds received into the political account during this period.
- Pre-School Campaign Statement, due on May 31. The Committee will report the May 18 expenditure on this statement as the coverage period is from April 23 through May 26. The committee also reports all funds received into the political account during this period.
- Post-School Campaign Statement, due on July 11. The Committee will report the June 1 expenditure on this statement as the coverage period is from May 27 through July 1. The committee also reports all funds received into the political account during this period.
- 2008 Annual Campaign Statement, due on January 31, 2008. This statement will cover the period from July 2, 2007 through December 31, 2007. This report will show zero expenditures but will include all funds received during the coverage period.

On December 19, 2007, a Political Party Committee makes an expenditure to support a candidate whose name will appear on the ballot in the Village Primary Election scheduled for February of the following year. This is the only expenditure the committee makes with respect to the village Primary. The committee reports the expenditure and all funds received during the period since the closing date of their previous statement on the Annual Campaign Statement due on January 31. After filing the Annual Campaign Statement, the committee is not required to file the Pre-Primary or Post-Primary Campaign Statements for the Village Primary Election as there are no additional expenditures to report.

Immediate Disclosure Reports: See [Appendix G](#)

Late Filing Fees: See [Appendix E](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

“**Contributions**” are monies, goods and services donated to the committee that are not clearly designated by the contributor for the committee’s administrative expenses.

“**Other receipts**” include interest, refunds and rebates received by the committee, un-cashed or returned checks and loans from a financial institution that are deposited in the committee’s official depository.

Both “*contributions and other receipts*” referred to in this Manual are those that are placed into the political account the committee uses to make expenditures in support of or in opposition to candidates, issues and other committees in Michigan state and local elections.

RECORDING AND REPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

The committee treasurer or designated record keeper must:

- Record and report all contributions from individuals by the amount, date received and the donor’s name. If single or cumulative contributions received from the same individual during a calendar year total \$100.01 or more, the committee must also record and report the donor’s occupation, employer and principal place of business.
- Record and report all contributions received from other committees by the amount, date received, the committee name, and address.
- Record and report all contributions received from groups, businesses, firms or any other types of organizations that are not registered as a committee under the Act by amount, date of receipt and the contributing organization’s name and address. If an individual gave money toward the organization’s contribution, the committee must record and report the amount the individual gave, the date the organization received the individual’s contribution, and the individual’s name and address as a “memo itemization.” If an individual gave \$100.01 or more toward the organization’s contribution, the committee must also record and report the individual’s occupation, employer and principal place of business.
- Record and report all “other receipts” by the amount, date received, and the name and address of the source. Include a brief description of the “other receipt.”

The receipt date is **not** the date the check or other written instrument was written or the date the contribution was deposited into the committee’s bank account. A contribution is received by a committee on the date that the monetary funds, written instrument, or in-kind contribution of goods from the contributor have come into the physical possession of the committee treasurer, designated record keeper or other person acting as an agent of the committee.

For purposes of reporting the receipt of an in-kind contribution of services, the in-kind contribution is considered to be received by the committee on the date the committee treasurer, designated record keeper or other person acting as an agent of the committee receives verbal or written notice from the contributor that the contribution has, in fact, been made.

Contributions include donations or loans (except loans from financial institutions in their regular course of business) of money; membership dues; money received from sales of merchandise such as campaign buttons, bumper stickers, tee-shirts, caps, etc.; sale of tickets for various functions and events.

If the money, regardless of its source, is placed into the committee's political account that is used for state or local candidate, ballot question or other committee support or opposition in Michigan, the detail information required by the Michigan Campaign Finance Act must be recorded and reported.

Please refer to the Political Party Campaign Statement Instructions booklet for specific information on how to report contributions and other receipts.

PROMPT DEPOSIT REQUIRED

The Committee Treasurer or agent must promptly deposit all funds received by the committee in the committee's depository. The committee receives a contribution as soon as the committee treasurer or an agent designated by the treasurer receives it.

WHEN A WRITTEN INSTRUMENT IS REQUIRED

Contributions of \$20.01 or more must be made by written instrument such as a check or money order. The written instrument must show the name of the person making the contribution, date and amount of the contribution and the name of the committee receiving the contribution. A committee may not accept a contribution of 20.01 or more in cash. For contributions made by credit card, the committee must record and report the same type of information for each contribution.

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

A person may not contribute more than \$20,000.00 in a calendar year to a House or Senate Caucus Committee. The caucus committee also may not accept contributions that exceed this limit. All other Political Committees, Independent Committees, Political Party Committee and Ballot Question Committees may receive unlimited contribution amounts. (Refer to Expenditures Section for Expenditure Limits.)

ACCEPTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

Contribution of Money: A Committee may accept direct contributions of money from legal sources in the form of cash (\$20.00 or less), check, money order or credit cards.

Loan as a Contribution: A Committee may accept loans from individuals, Independent Committees, Political Party Committees and financial institutions. **Loans, other than financial institution loans, are recorded as contributions.** A loan received by a committee which is endorsed or guaranteed by a third party means the third party is liable for the amount loaned.

Loan as an Other Receipt – Financial Institution Loan: A loan made by a financial institution is recorded as an "other receipt."

Membership Dues: Membership dues, fees or subscriptions are direct contributions and should be recorded and reported in the same manner as other contributions.

In-Kind Contributions: In-kind contributions are goods, services and facilities provided to the committee at no cost or at a discount. An in-kind contribution may be in the form of a person paying a bill for the committee, providing entertainment for a fundraiser, the free use of a facility, etc.

- The value of the in-kind contribution is the fair market value of the goods or services or the usual rental charge of the facility. If the committee receives a discount unavailable to the general public, the value of the in-kind contribution is the amount discounted.
- A corporation, joint stock company, labor union, domestic dependent sovereign (Indian tribe) foreign nationals or a person holding a casino interest in one of the three Detroit casinos may not make an in-kind contribution to a Candidate Committee, Political Committee, Independent Committee or Political Party Committee. Any contributions of funds, goods or services must be from the organization's Political or Independent Committee.

Contributions from Out-of-State Groups: See [Appendix K](#)

Contributions Received From A Partnership Or A Limited Liability Company: The following requirements for partnerships also apply to limited liability companies and their members.

- A contribution to a Political Party Committee that is made on a partnership check is viewed as a contribution from the partnership as an entity unless the amount is attributed to individual partners. Consequently, if a partnership contributes \$500.00 or more in a calendar year and the amount contributed has not been attributed to individual partners, the partnership is required to register as a Political or Independent Committee under the Campaign Finance Act. On the other hand, if the amount contributed has been attributed to members of the partnership, the amount involved does not count toward the \$500.00 registration threshold applicable to the partnership under the Act.
- When the members of a partnership or a limited liability company make a contribution to a Political Party Committee, they must provide to the committee a written statement containing the names, addresses, date and amount to be attributed to each partner or member. The statement must include the occupation, employer's name and address of business for those individual members whose attributed portion exceeds \$100.00. The committee reports the amount contributed by each partner or member as a separate contribution from that individual; the name of the partnership or limited liability company does not appear on the committee's Campaign Statement as a contributor.
- A partnership or limited liability company is not permitted to attribute a contribution to an incorporated partner or member unless it is clearly and specifically designated by the contributor for the Political Party Committee's administrative account, which cannot be used for candidate support or opposition.

Contribution Exemptions: An individual may assist a Political Party in a number of ways without the assistance counting as a contribution to the committee. The following exemptions are designed to encourage volunteer participation in the political process:

- A volunteer's personal service does not count as a contribution as long as the volunteer assists the committee without any understanding or agreement that compensation will be received for the time or services donated. If the committee compensates the volunteer, the compensation must be reported as an expenditure. If a third party compensates the volunteer, the committee must report the compensation as an in-kind contribution from the third party. If a volunteer is on earned vacation time when assisting the committee, the vacation pay does not count as a contribution.
- The first \$500.00 spent during the year by a volunteer for personal travel expenses (gas, lodging) while working for the committee do not count as a contribution as long as the costs are voluntarily incurred without any understanding or agreement that the costs will be repaid. Additional travel expenses incurred by the volunteer during the year must be reported as in-kind contributions.
- The first \$100.00 worth of food and beverages donated during the year by an individual does not count as a contribution as long as the costs are voluntarily incurred without any understanding or agreement that the costs will be repaid. Additional donations of food or beverages by the individual during the year must be reported as in-kind contributions.

Advising Contributor Of Filing Obligations Urged: Michigan's Campaign Finance Act covers a "person" operating within Michigan or out-of-state as soon as it receives or spends \$500.00 or more in a calendar year to influence voters for or against the nomination or election of one or more candidates in Michigan. The term "person" is used to mean a business, company, corporation, association or two or more individuals who act jointly. As soon as a person reaches the \$500.00 threshold detailed above, it has ten (10) calendar days to form and register a committee under the Act. A person that is covered by the Act must register a committee by filing a Statement of Organization with the appropriate filing official.

- The treasurer of a Committee who accepts a contribution of \$500.00 or more from a business or other type of group is urged to advise the organization of the Campaign Finance Act's filing requirements.
- A group that meets the registration threshold through a single contribution may register a committee under the Act and dissolve the committee on the same day if no further political activity is anticipated for the year.
- If the Committee that received the contribution is a state-level or judicial committee, the group would file the Statement of Organization with the Bureau of Elections. If the contribution was made to a candidate for local office, the Statement of Organization would be filed with the appropriate County Clerk.

Contributions To An Administrative Account: Any funds received by a Political Party Committee from treasury funds of a corporation, joint stock company, labor organization or domestic dependent sovereign (Indian tribe) or funds that are clearly designated by the contributor for the committee's administrative account **must** be deposited into a separate account

maintained for paying administrative expenses that are totally unrelated to the party's political activity. These funds should **not** be listed on a Campaign Statement and may not be used for candidate support or opposition. If the funds are not deposited in such an account, they must be returned to the contributor.

Prohibited Contributions: See [Appendix O](#)

RETURNING CONTRIBUTIONS

Funds received by a committee which are returned to the contributor **within 30 business days** after their receipt are not viewed as a "contribution" under the Act.

- Funds that are returned to the contributor which have not been deposited in the committee's account are not reported on the next Campaign Statement required of the committee.
- Funds deposited in a committee's account that are subsequently returned to the contributor must be reported on the Campaign Statement covering the period during which the contribution was received and returned.

EXPENDITURES

“**Expenditures**” are anything of monetary value spent by the committee to influence the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question.

Funds spent by a Political Party Committee to pay for administrative non-campaign expenses are not considered “expenditures” under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

RECORDING AND REPORTING EXPENDITURES

The committee treasurer or designated record keeper must: See [Appendix A](#)

- Record all expenditures by the amount, date made, purpose and the recipient’s name and address.
- Record all expenditures made to, on behalf of, or in opposition to, a Candidate Committee by the amount, date made, purpose and the Candidate Committee’s name and address. Record the candidate’s name, county of residence, elective office sought and the district or community served by the office.
- Record all expenditures made to support or oppose the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question by the name and address of the committee or person to whom the expenditure is made, the amount, date, purpose and a description of the ballot question. Record whether the ballot question is a statewide, multi-county or single-county issue. If the issue is to be voted on in a single county, record the name of the county; if the issue is to be voted on more than one county, record the name of the county with the greatest number of voters eligible to vote on the issue. (This information can be obtained from the County Clerk of the county where the vote is taking place.)

Please refer to the Political Party Committee Campaign Statement Instructions booklet for specific information on how to report expenditures.

When A Written Instrument Is Required

An expenditure of \$50.01 or more must be made by written instrument such as a check or money order that must show the Political Party Committee’s name, the name of the recipient, the date and amount. A committee may not make expenditures of \$50.01 or more in cash.

ACCEPTABLE EXPENDITURES AND EXEMPTIONS

Petty Cash Fund

The committee treasurer may establish a petty cash fund with funds withdrawn from the committee's official depository.

- The committee must record the name, date, and amount of each expenditure made from the petty cash fund.
- Single cash expenditures of \$50.00 or less may be made from the petty cash fund.

In-Kind Expenditures

In-kind expenditures are goods, services and facilities provided to another committee at no cost or at a discount. The value of an in-kind expenditure is the fair market value or usual rental charge of the good, service or facility. If the committee provides goods, services or facilities to another committee at a discount, the value of the in-kind expenditure is the amount discounted.

Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures are expenditures made on behalf of a candidate or a ballot question without direction or control of the Candidate Committee or a committee supporting or opposing the ballot question. Independent expenditures are **never** made under the control or direction of another person or committee and are not contributions to a committee. Independent expenditures can be made in any amount and do not count toward the contribution limit for the candidate.

Limitations On Expenditures To Candidates

The Campaign Finance Act places limits on the amount a Political Party Committee can give to, or expend on behalf of, a Michigan candidate. The following types of expenditures count toward the limit:

- Expenditures of cash of \$50.00 or less;
- Expenditures by written instrument such as a check or money order;
- In-kind expenditures of goods and services; and
- Loans made to the Candidate Committee

Normally referred to as "contribution limits", the limits refer to the maximum amount that a Political Party Committee can expend in direct contributions or loans of money and in-kind contributions of goods or services to a Candidate Committee during that candidate's "election cycle". Independent expenditures do not count toward the contribution limit.

- An "election cycle" begins on the day **following** a general election in which the office involved appears on the ballot and ends on the day **of** the next general election in which the office appears on the ballot.

- For a special election, the “election cycle” begins on the day the special election is scheduled or the day the office involved becomes vacant (whichever is earlier) and ends on the day **of** the special election.
- The election cycle of a new candidate begins on the formation date of the Candidate Committee and ends on the day **of** the general election for which the candidate’s name appears on the ballot.

The following chart lists the maximum amounts a Political Party Committee may give to a Candidate Committee during the candidate’s election cycle.

Expenditure Limits for a County Political Party Committee or a Congressional District Political Party Committee (Also Referred to as “Contribution Limits”)

Governor (Not receiving public funds)	\$34,000
Governor (Receiving public funds)	\$30,000
Lt. Governor	\$34,000
Local candidate or judicial candidate in district or jurisdiction with population over 250,000	\$34,000
State Senator	\$10,000
Local candidate or judicial candidate in district or jurisdiction with population of 85,001 to 250,000	\$10,000
State Representative	\$ 5,000
Local candidate or judicial candidate in district or jurisdiction with population up to 85,000	\$ 5,000
Any Other State elective office (Includes Secretary of State, Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regent, Michigan State University Trustee and Wayne State University Governor.)	\$34,000

Expenditure Limits for a State Central Political Party Committee (Also Referred to as “Contribution Limits”)

Governor (Not receiving public funds)	\$68,000
Governor (Receiving public funds)	\$750,000
Lt. Governor	\$68,000

Local candidate or judicial candidate in district or jurisdiction with population over 250,000	\$34,000
State Senator	\$10,000
Local candidate or judicial candidate in district or jurisdiction with population of 85,001 to 250,000	\$10,000
State Representative	\$ 5,000
Local candidate or judicial candidate in district or jurisdiction with population up to 85,000	\$ 5,000
Any Other State elective office	\$68,000

(Includes Secretary of State, Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regent, Michigan State University Trustee and Wayne State University Governor.)

Loans By Political Party Committees

A loan accepted by a Candidate Committee from a Political Party Committee counts against the Political Party Committee’s contribution limit to that candidate. A bank loan received by a Candidate Committee and endorsed or guaranteed by a Political Party Committee counts against the Political Party Committee’s contribution limit to that Candidate Committee to the extent the party is liable for the loan. As the loan is repaid, the amount repaid is no longer counted against the contribution limit.

Earmarking

An amount expended to a Candidate Committee by a Political Party Committee does not count against the contribution limit applicable to any person who may have given those funds to the Political Party Committee, unless the person directs or controls the ultimate use of those funds. A person is not permitted to give a contribution to a Political Party Committee with the understanding or agreement that the contribution will be passed on to a particular candidate. This practice is called “earmarking” and is strictly prohibited.

Designation OF Contributions for a Previous Election Cycles Period

A contribution received by a Candidate Committee is considered to be for the current election cycle unless specifically designated for a previous election cycle. A Political Party Committee can designate a contribution to a previous election cycle if:

1. The designation is made in writing;
2. The Political Party Committee did not reach the applicable contribution limit set for the Candidate Committee in the election cycle identified in the designation; and

3. The designated contribution does not exceed the Candidate Committee's outstanding debts from the election cycle identified in the designation.

Delivery Of A Contribution To Another Committee By A Third Party

An individual who obtains possession of a contribution that a committee registered under the Act wishes to give to another committee registered under the Act has ten business days to take one of the following actions:

1. Deliver the contribution to the appropriate committee treasurer;
2. Deliver the contribution to any agent of the appropriate committee; or
3. Return the contribution to the payer.

The ten-day time limit for these actions does not apply if the individual in possession of the contribution is the treasurer or designated record keeper of the contributing committee.

Use Of Independent Contractors: See [Appendix L](#)

Expenditure Exemptions:

The Act exempts the following activities from the expenditure definition:

- A group or committee may communicate with its paid members or shareholders without having to report the expenses involved as expenditures. The communication can support or oppose ballot questions.
- A group or committee may communication with anyone on a subject or an issue without having to report the expenses involved as expenditures if the communication does not support or oppose a ballot question by name or clear inference.

Prohibited Expenditures:

- A committee may not make a single expenditure from petty cash that exceeds \$50.00.
- A committee may not make a cash expenditure that exceeds \$50.00.

Dissolution of a Committee: See [Appendix N](#)