



Campaign Finance Election Cycles Dates

Background

The Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) sets contribution limits for state level, judicial and local offices. These contribution limits are determined or accumulated based on the election cycle of the office or proposal. Election cycles can be thought of as a time frame. Election cycles are reset after each election.

Accepting or making a contribution in excess of the election cycle limit is a violation of the MCFA. So, to avoid violating the MCFA by accepting or making an excess contribution, committees must be aware of both: the relevant election cycle time frame, and the dollar limit that is prescribed by the MCFA.

Determining the election cycle time frame for a campaign

For a general election, the election cycle begins the day following the last general election in which the office appeared 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 the day the special general election is called or the date the office becomes vacant (which ever is earlier) and ends on the day of the special general election. [Section 5\(3\)](#)

Candidate Committees and Ballot Question Committees: A separate election cycle must be entered for each campaign for which the committee has received contributions or made expenditures. Directly following each election, a new election cycle must be entered, even if you there are no plans to participate in the next election. The date of a contribution must always be associated with the election cycle whose date range includes this date.

PACs and Political Party Committees: PACs (excluding Caucus Committees) and Political Party Committees do not use election cycles to track their own contributions but rather must use and enter the election cycles of Candidate Committees and Ballot Question Committees receiving their contributions. (The PAC or Political Party must report this as an expenditure; the receiving committee reports the contribution.) This is necessary to ensure that the system tracks the contribution limits and cumulative totals as required by the MCFA.

It is not necessary or beneficial to enter a separate election cycle for each candidate committee to which the committee has made contributions. For example, all committees for state representative will have same the 2 year election cycle. The election cycle would be entered once in the *Election Cycles Tab*. When entering the expenditure information, the same election cycle entry is associated with any and all state representative campaigns during the same election cycle.

Campaign statements that span over two election cycles

When filing a campaign statement that contains activity in the old and the new election cycle, use the election cycle of the past election or the old cycle. In this way, the cumulative totals on the summary page reflect the totals for the completed election cycle. This overlap occurs on every Post-General Campaign Statement and January Campaign Statement.

Election cycle dates

The election cycles for upcoming even year general elections are provided in the charts below. A chart is provided to assist in the calculation of an election not included here or for a special election.

November 5, 2024, General Election			
Office	Cycle	Election Cycle Begins	Election Cycle Ends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court • State Board of Education • State University Boards 	8-year cycle	11/9/2016	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court of Appeals • Circuit Court • District Court • Probate Court • Local Offices with 6- year terms 	6-year cycle	11/7/2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Offices with 4- year terms 	4-year cycle	11/4/2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Representative • Ballot Issues • Local Offices with 2- year terms 	2-year cycle	11/9/2022	
			11/5/2024

November 3, 2026, General Election

Office	Cycle	Election Cycle Begins	Election Cycle Ends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court • State Board of Education • State University Boards 	8-year cycle	11/7/2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court of Appeals • Circuit Court • District Court • Probate Court • Local Offices with 6- year terms 	6-year cycle	11/4/2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Senate • Gov. & Lt. Gov. • Sec. of State • Attorney Gen. • Local Offices with 4- year terms 	4-year cycle	11/7/2022	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Representative • Ballot Issues • Local Offices with 2- year terms 	2-year cycle	11/6/2024	
			11/3/2026