



Judicial Candidate Seminar 2025-2026

Heather Moore-Kester- Campaign Finance Administrator



GETTING STARTED

Pick a Treasurer



File a
Designation of
Treasurer (DOT)



Open a Bank
Account

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NEXT STEPS

Open a Bank Account



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REPORTING: WHEN TO FILE

FILING DATES & COVERAGE

Election-Related Filings

Pre-Election
Report

Post-Election
Report

Non-Election Related Filings

Semiannual

Annual

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OHIO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING CALENDAR 2025

See [Ohio Revised Code §3517.10](#) for complete details of the timing and requirements for most campaign finance reporting.

2024 Annual¹.....**Jan. 31, 2025** to disclose activity through **Dec. 31, 2024**.

Pre-Primary.....**April 24, 2025** to disclose activity through **April 16, 2025**.

Post-Primary.....**June 13, 2025** to disclose activity through **June 6, 2025**.

Semiannual².....**July 31, 2025** to disclose activity through **June 30, 2025**.

Pre-General.....**Oct. 23, 2025** to disclose activity through **Oct. 15, 2025**.

Post-General.....**Dec. 12, 2025** to disclose activity through **Dec. 5, 2025**.

2025 Annual.....**Jan. 30, 2026** to disclose activity through **Dec. 31, 2025**.

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REPORTING: WHERE TO FILE

Local County
Board of
Elections

Secretary of
State

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REPORTING: HOW TO FILE

Local County
Board of
Elections

File by Paper

BOE-FILE
boefile.ohiosos.gov

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File by Paper

Campaign Finance
Online Filing System
(CFOFS)
www6.ohiosos.gov

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CONTRIBUTIONS: WHO CAN GIVE

- Individuals 7 years and older
- Political Action Committees and Political Contributing Entities
- Business entities

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CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUED

- Fundraising Events use separate forms.
- Contribution Limits & Cash Contributions

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JUDICIAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS
*Effective for 2025 Election Cycle and
Subsequent Election Cycles*

CANDIDATE FOR:	INDIVIDUAL		ORGANIZATION		POLITICAL PARTY	
	Primary*	General	Primary*	General	Primary*	General
Supreme Court Chief Justice and Justice	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$9,100	\$9,100	\$247,500	\$453,900
Court of Appeals	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$49,500	\$99,200
Common Pleas, Municipal, and County Court more than 750,000	\$800	\$800	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$49,500	\$99,200
750,000 or less	\$800	\$800	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$41,300	\$82,400

*Primary limits apply only if the judicial candidate has a contested primary. If there is no contested primary, the general election limits apply throughout the permissible fundraising period.

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REPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS



Statement of Contributions Received

Page

Form 31-A

ORC 3517.10

Full Name of Committee				
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Jon Doe				
Street Address	Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)	
123 Main Cross	ABC Incorporated		Cash	
City	State	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Anywhere	OH <input type="text"/>	44223	12/03/2025	100.00

- Loans are reported on a separate form that is filed with each report until the loan is forgiven or paid off.

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REPORTING EXPENDITURES



Page

Statement of Expenditures

Form 31-B

R.C. 3517.10

Full Name of Committee			
Committee to Elect Kester			
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Sign Company		12/03/2025	1500.00
Street Address		Purpose	
4968 S. Walnut		campaign lawn signs	
City	State	Zip Code	Check Number
Anywhere	OH	44402	143

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EXPENDITURES

- Verification is required for any expenditure over \$25.
- Reimbursements are allowable for candidates and any volunteers for permissible prior expenses incurred.



NON-MONETARY ACTIVITY: IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

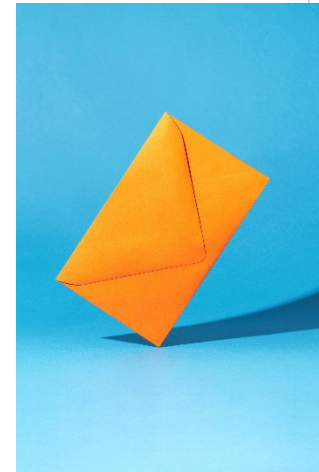
- A non-monetary contribution of goods or services
- Reported on Form 31-J-1 (In-Kind Contributions Received)
- Counts toward Contribution Limits

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AFTER FILING A REPORT

- Examined by Secretary of State or board of elections
- Responding to an examination



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TOP 10 REPORTING ERRORS

1. Missing data
2. Missing expenditure verification
3. Direct corporate contributions
4. Cover page balances not calculated correctly
5. Cash Contributions over \$100
6. Improper use of fundraiser itemization exemption
7. Vague purpose reported for expenditures
8. Reporting in the wrong period
9. Failure to use the correct balance brought forward
10. Unverified reimbursements

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DISCLAIMERS



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QUESTIONS?

- Secretary of State Campaign Finance
 - (614) 466-3111
 - CFinance@OhioSoS.gov (for questions and disclaimer exemption requests)
 - CFforms@OhioSoS.gov (to submit forms)
- Contact Heather Moore-Kester- Campaign Finance Administrator
 - (614) 696-8759
 - HMooreke@OhioSoS.gov
- Contact Francis Lally- Campaign Finance Deputy Administrator
 - (380) 265-1367
 - FLally@OhioSoS.gov

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