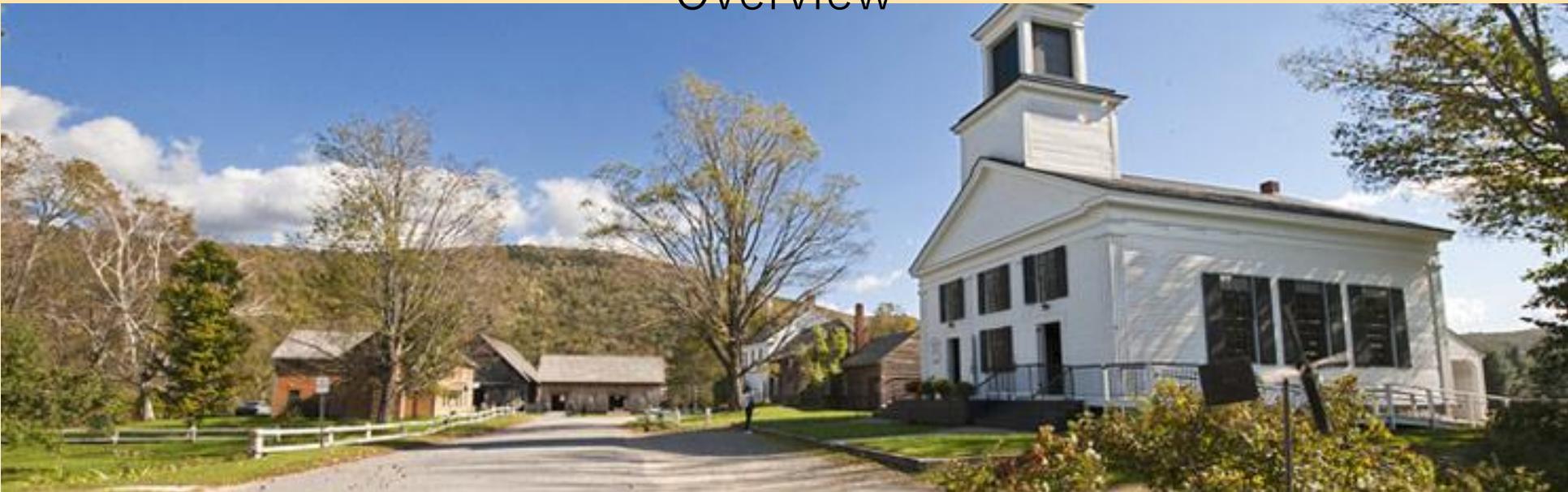


# Office of the Vermont Secretary of State

## Campaign Finance Overview



Secretary of State Jim Condos

## Campaign Finance Disclosure

### Our Elections Division oversees campaign finance disclosure:

- All candidates, PACs, and parties engaging in campaign finance activities must register and file disclosure reports with the Elections Division.
- All required registrations and filings are mandatory through our online campaign finance filing system.
- All reports filed in that system are instantly accessible and searchable to the public.



## Campaign Finance Violations

**The Attorney General's office has investigative and enforcement authority over the campaign finance law:**

- **Complaints of violations are filed directly with the Attorney General, not the Secretary of State, and are investigated and enforced by their civil division attorneys.**



## Registration

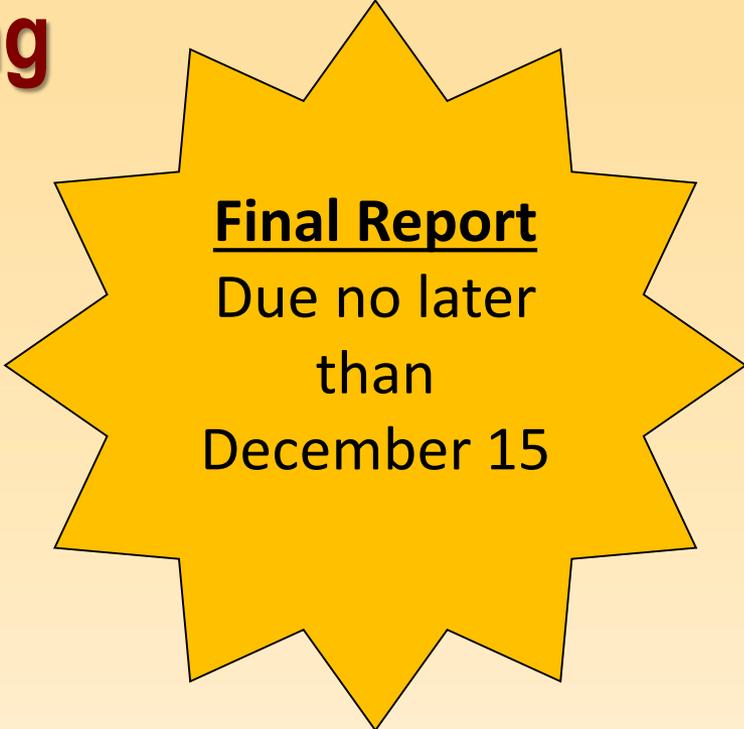
- **All candidates (local, legislative, county, and statewide) that raise or spend \$500 or more, and all political action committees (PACs) and party committees (town, county, state) that raise or spend \$1,000 or more are required to register and begin regular reporting.**
- **To register they must identify the checking account in which the campaign funds are kept and they must name a treasurer.**
- **Our office must be notified of any changes to either of those.**



## Reporting

Reporting dates are as follows:

- Off year: July 15
- Election Year: March 15  
July 15  
August 15  
September 1  
October 1  
October 15  
Friday before General Election  
Two weeks after General Election



**Final Report**  
Due no later  
than  
December 15

\*Candidates may roll surplus into a new campaign or may empty and close the account by giving to other candidates, PACs, parties, or to charity.

## Contribution Limits

### Contribution limits are as follows:

- Local and State Representative Candidates: **\$1,000** (unlimited from parties)
- State Senate and County candidates: **\$1,500** (unlimited from parties)
- Statewide office candidates: **\$4,000** (unlimited from parties)
- PACs: **\$4,000** (from any source)
- Parties: **\$10,000** from single source or PAC  
**\$60,000** from another party



## Contribution Definition

**Contributions can be anything of value, including non-monetary items, if given for the purpose of influencing the election, advocating on a public question, or for supporting or opposing a candidate.**

- **Expenditures made by another entity on a candidate's behalf, if coordinated with the candidate, are considered a contribution to the candidate and are subject to the contribution limits.**



## Public Financing

**Public financing is an available option for Governor or Lt. Governor candidates**

**They are required to raise a certain number of small dollar qualifying contributions from a certain number of people starting no sooner than February 15 of the election year, and before the deadline for filing petitions to run for office, in order to qualify.**



## Public Financing

### Parameters are:

For Governor: \$35,000 total from 1,500 contributors of no more than \$50 each

For Lt. Governor: \$17,500 total from 750 contributors of no more than \$50 each

### Grants are:

For Governor: \$150,000 for the Primary, \$450,000 for the General Election

For Lt. Governor: \$50,000 for the Primary; \$150,000 for the General Election



## Campaign Finance Support

### We're here to help:

- The Elections Division produces a Campaign Finance Guide, updated every election cycle, to reflect any changes to the law or administrative process.
- Elections Staff are available during normal business hours to answer questions about the law or process from any regulated entities and the general public.
- Our website contains all critical information like reporting deadlines, requirements, and contribution limits.

The law was last amended in 2013.



## Campaign Finance Metrics

### Online Campaign Finance Registrations and Disclosures:

#### 2018 General Election

- **3,690 Total Disclosure Reports**
- **593 Total Registrants**
  - 435 candidates
  - 78 PACs
  - 6 Legislative Leadership PACs
  - 16 IE PACs
  - 47 Political Parties
  - 11 Public Mass Media

#### 2018 Town Meeting

- **154 Total Disclosure Reports**
- **62 Total Registrants**
  - 52 candidates
  - 3 PACs
  - 2 Political Parties
  - 1 Public Question Committees
  - 3 Public Mass Media



**THANK YOU!**

**Please call or visit our office with any questions!**

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**[www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us)**

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