

§1052-A. Registration

A committee shall register with the commission and amend its registration as required by this section. A registration is not timely filed unless it contains all the information required in this section. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

1. Deadlines to file and amend registrations. A committee shall register and file amendments with the commission according to the following schedule.

A. A political action committee as defined under section 1052, subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) or (5) shall register with the commission within 7 days of receiving contributions or making expenditures in the aggregate in excess of \$2,500. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

A-1. A ballot question committee shall register with the commission within 7 days of receiving contributions or making expenditures in the aggregate in excess of \$5,000. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (NEW).]

A-2. A registered committee that does not qualify for an exception to registration pursuant to subsection 1-A shall register as a political action committee or ballot question committee, as applicable, within 7 days of exceeding the \$10,000 threshold specified in subsection 1-A. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (NEW).]

B. A committee shall amend the registration within 10 days of a change in the information that committees are required to disclose under this section. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

C. A committee shall file an updated registration form between January 1st and March 1st of each year in which a general election is held. The commission may waive the updated registration requirement for a newly registered political action committee or other registered committee if the commission determines that the requirement would cause an administrative burden disproportionate to the public benefit of the updated information. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
[PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

1-A. The following exceptions to the registration requirements in subsection 1 apply to registered committees.

A. A registered political action committee that receives contributions or makes expenditures of \$10,000 or less in the aggregate for the purpose of influencing one or more ballot question campaigns in a calendar year is not required to register as a ballot question committee. If a registered political action committee's only expenditures to influence ballot question campaigns in an election year are monetary contributions to registered ballot question committees, the political action committee is not required to register as a ballot question committee regardless of the aggregated amount of such contributions. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (NEW).]

B. A registered ballot question committee that receives contributions or makes expenditures of \$10,000 or less in the aggregate for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of one or more candidates in a calendar year is not required to register as a political action committee. If a registered ballot question committee's only expenditures to influence candidate elections in an election year are monetary contributions to registered political action committees, party committees or candidates, the ballot question committee is not required to register as a political action committee regardless of the aggregated amount of such contributions. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (NEW).]

2. Disclosure of treasurer and officers. A committee must have a treasurer and a principal officer. The same individual may not serve in both positions, unless the committee is an individual registering as a ballot question committee. The committee's registration must contain the names and addresses of the following individuals:

- A. The treasurer of the committee; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - B. A principal officer of the committee; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - C. Any other individuals who are primarily responsible for making decisions for the committee; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - D. The individuals who are primarily responsible for raising contributions for the committee; and [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - E. The names of any other candidates or Legislators who have a significant role in fund-raising or decision-making for the committee. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
- [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

3. Other disclosure requirements. A committee's registration must also include the following information:

- A. A statement indicating the specific candidates, categories of candidates or campaigns or ballot questions that the committee expects to support or oppose; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - B. If the committee is formed to influence the election of a single candidate, the name of that candidate; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - C. The form or structure of the organization, such as a voluntary association, membership organization, corporation or any other structure by which the committee functions, and the date of origin or incorporation of the organization; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - D. If the committee has been formed by one or more for-profit or nonprofit corporations or other organizations for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign, the names and addresses of the corporations or organizations; [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
 - E. The name of the account that the committee will use to deposit contributions and make expenditures pursuant to section 1054, and the name and address of the financial institution at which the account is established; and [PL 2023, c. 244, §13 (AMD).]
- E-1. [PL 2023, c. 244, §14 (RP).]
- F. Any additional information reasonably required by the commission to monitor the activities of committees in this State under this subchapter. [PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]
- [PL 2023, c. 244, §§13, 14 (AMD).]

4. Acknowledgment of responsibilities. The treasurer, principal officer and any other individuals who are primarily responsible for making decisions for the committee shall submit a signed statement acknowledging their responsibilities on a form prescribed by the commission within 10 days of registering the committee. The signed acknowledgment statement serves as notification of the responsibilities of the committee to comply with the financial reporting, record-keeping and other requirements of this chapter and the potential personal liability of the treasurer and principal officer for civil penalties assessed against the committee. The commission shall notify the committee of any individual who has failed to submit the acknowledgment statement. Failure to return the acknowledgment statement is a violation of this subchapter for which a fine of \$100 may be assessed against the committee. This section also applies to individuals named in an updated or amended registration required by this subsection who have not previously submitted an acknowledgment statement for the committee with the commission.

[PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

5. Resignation and removal. An individual who resigns as the treasurer, principal officer or primary decision maker of a committee shall submit a written resignation statement to the commission. An individual's resignation is not effective until the commission receives the written resignation statement from the individual. If an individual is involuntarily removed from the position of treasurer,

principal officer or primary decision maker by the committee, the committee shall notify the commission in writing that the individual has been removed from the position. The commission may prescribe forms for these purposes.

[PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD).]

6. Modified registration. The commission may adopt simplified registration procedures and forms for an individual registering as a ballot question committee to initiate or influence a ballot question.

[PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 334, §19 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §23 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 408, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 563, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 217, §4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 244, §§13, 14 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.