

# Candidate Information: Local

This information is provided on the Georgia Government Transparency Campaign Finance Commission website: [www.ethic.ga.gov/candidate-information-local](http://www.ethic.ga.gov/candidate-information-local)

## You have decided to run for office. Now what?

- **File a Declaration of Intent (DOI)** before accepting or expending any campaign funds. A DOI must be submitted directly to your local filing officer.
- **What if I have a Campaign Committee?**
  - If you have designated someone to file your reports or if anyone is collecting or expending your contributions, you have a campaign committee. File a Form RC for a Candidate's Campaign Committee
  - The term "campaign committee" as it relates to the candidate means the candidate, person(s) or committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of bringing about the nomination or election of an individual to any elected office. If a candidate has a campaign committee, the name and address of the committee, its chairperson, treasurer, and the candidate must be registered with the Commission prior to accepting any contributions.
    - One person may serve as both chairperson and treasurer.
    - No contributions may be accepted at any time there is a vacancy in either the position of chairperson or treasurer.
    - No candidate may have more than one campaign committee.
    - Registration Form for a Candidate's Campaign Committee is filed with the Commission.
- **Can I Accept Money for Multiple Elections?** If you are accepting contributions for all the elections within an election cycle (i.e., primary, primary runoff, general and general runoff), you must first file the form Choosing Option of Separate Accounting, which can be selected when registering a DOI. A candidate who wishes to accept contributions for more than one election at a time shall separately account for such campaign contributions and shall file an "Option to Choose Separate Accounting" form with the Commission prior to accepting contributions for any election other than the candidate's next upcoming election. A candidate is only required to file one Form COOSA which shall be utilized for all subsequent elections to the same office, regardless of whether an election occurs in a new election cycle.

## Contribution Limits

**Primary Election** | \$3,300.00 Three thousand dollars

**Primary Runoff Election** | \$1,800.00 One thousand six hundred dollars

**General Election** | \$3,300.00 Three thousand dollars

**General Runoff Election** | \$1,800.00 One thousand six hundred dollars

## Filing Schedule

| Non-Election Year   | Election Year   |
|---|---|
| <p data-bbox="224 470 467 512">County and Municipal Elected Officials, &amp; Candidates</p> <p data-bbox="237 638 454 758"><b><u>Due Date</u></b><br/><b>June 30th</b><br/><b>December 31st</b></p> | <p data-bbox="581 436 776 533">Statewide, State-Level, County and Municipal Elected Officials, &amp; Candidates</p> <p data-bbox="581 569 786 835"><b><u>Due Date</u></b><br/><b>January 31st</b><br/><b>April 30th</b><br/><b>June 30th</b><br/><b>September 30th</b><br/><b>October 25th</b><br/><b>December 31st</b></p> |

All candidates and elected officials required to file reports shall have a 5-day grace period, not including weekends or state holidays.

## ***Campaign Finance Basics***

**Declaration of Intent (DOI)**: This form must be filed with and accepted by the commission before a candidate can receive any type of campaign contribution. Upon filing DOI, candidates must qualify for office with the Secretary of States Office.

**Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR)**: This is a complete financial report of a campaign's contributions, expenditures, loans, and investments. The due date of these reports varies on the level of office sought and if it is an election year or nonelection year.

**Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (PFDS)**: This is a statement of personal financial interests for the preceding calendar year filed by each candidate and public officer.

**Account Management**: Campaign accounts may be managed by the following: The candidate themselves, a member of a candidate's designated campaign committee or a third-party vendor.

**Who does the GGT & CFC regulate?** The Georgia Government Transparency Campaign Finance Commission is responsible for regulating all state level elected officials, appointed public officers, lobbyists, political action committees, independent committees, and all candidates for public office.

### ***Have Questions?***

As always, Georgia Government Transparency Campaign Finance Commission is happy to help with any questions you may have. Call 404-463-1980 or email [gaethics.ethics.ga.gov](mailto:gaethics.ethics.ga.gov).