



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6864

LCO No. 3884



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-603 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

3 (a) Statements filed by party committees, political committees formed
4 to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum question,
5 [proposing a constitutional convention, constitutional amendment or
6 revision of the Constitution, individual lobbyists,] and those political
7 committees and candidate committees formed to aid or promote the
8 success or defeat of any candidate for [the office of Governor, Lieutenant
9 Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller,
10 Attorney General, judge of probate and members of the General
11 Assembly] public office or the position of town committee member,
12 shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. A
13 political committee formed for a slate of candidates in a primary for the
14 office of justice of the peace shall file statements with the [town clerk of
15 the municipality in which the primary is to be held] State Elections

16 Enforcement Commission.

17 [(b) Statements filed by political committees formed solely to aid or
18 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question to be voted
19 upon by the electors of a single municipality and those political
20 committees or candidate committees formed to aid or promote the
21 success or defeat of any candidate for public office, other than those
22 enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, or the position of town
23 committee member shall be filed only with the town clerk of the
24 municipality in which the election or referendum is to be held. Each
25 unsalaried town clerk shall be entitled to receive ten cents from the town
26 for the filing of each such statement.]

27 [(c)] (b) A certification of a candidate who is exempt from the
28 requirement of subsection (a) of section 9-604 to form a candidate
29 committee shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement
30 Commission, [if the candidate seeks an office enumerated in subsection
31 (a) of this section, or with the town clerk of the municipality in which
32 the election is to be held if the candidate seeks an office other than those
33 enumerated. A certification of a group of individuals who have joined
34 solely to aid or promote a referendum question and who are exempt
35 from the requirement to form a political committee under section 9-605
36 shall be filed with the town clerk of each municipality in which the
37 referendum is to be held.]

38 [(d)] (c) On December 31, 2006, the duties of the Secretary of the State
39 concerning the administration of campaign finance reporting under this
40 chapter shall be transferred to the State Elections Enforcement
41 Commission.

42 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-604 of the general statutes is
43 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
44 *1, 2027*):

45 (d) A slate of candidates in a primary for the office of justice of the
46 peace shall designate a chairperson to form a single political committee
47 to comply with the requirements of section 9-605, except if the

48 individuals on the slate unanimously consent to have their campaign
49 financed solely by a town committee and such committee consents to
50 such financing by filing a statement of consent with the [town clerk of
51 the municipality in which the primary is to be held] State Elections
52 Enforcement Commission.

53 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
55 *1, 2027*):

56 (d) At the time of filing statements required under this section, the
57 treasurer of each candidate committee shall send to the candidate a
58 duplicate statement and the treasurer of each party committee and each
59 political committee other than an exploratory committee shall send to
60 the chairman of the committee a duplicate statement. Each statement
61 required to be filed [with the commission] under this section, section 9-
62 601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712 shall be deemed to be filed in a
63 timely manner if: (1) For a statement filed as a hard copy, including, but
64 not limited to, a statement delivered by the United States Postal Service,
65 courier service, parcel service or hand delivery, the statement is received
66 by the commission by five o'clock p.m. on the day the statement is
67 required to be filed, (2) for a statement authorized by the commission to
68 be filed electronically, including, but not limited to, a statement filed via
69 dedicated electronic mail, facsimile machine, a web-based program
70 created by the commission or other electronic means, the statement is
71 transmitted to the commission not later than eleven fifty-nine o'clock
72 p.m. on the day the statement is required to be filed, or (3) for a
73 statement required to be filed pursuant to section 9-601d, section 9-706
74 or section 9-712, by the deadline specified in each such section. [Any
75 other filing required to be filed with a town clerk pursuant to this section
76 shall be deemed to be filed in a timely manner if it is delivered by hand
77 to the office of the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of
78 section 9-603 before four-thirty o'clock p.m. or postmarked by the
79 United States Postal Service before midnight on the required filing day.]
80 If the day for any filing falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the
81 statement shall be filed on the next business day thereafter. The State

82 Elections Enforcement Commission shall not levy a penalty upon a
83 treasurer for failure to file a hard copy of a statement in a timely manner
84 in accordance with the provisions of this section if such treasurer has a
85 copy of the statement time stamped by the State Elections Enforcement
86 Commission that shows timely receipt of the statement or the treasurer
87 has a return receipt from the United States Postal Service or a similar
88 receipt from a commercial delivery service confirming timely delivery
89 of such statement was made or should have been made to said
90 commission.

91 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 9-610 of the general
92 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
93 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

94 (2) A political committee established for ongoing political activities,
95 [and required pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-603 to file
96 statements with the commission] other than a committee established
97 solely for the purpose of aiding or promoting any candidate or
98 candidates for municipal office or the success or defeat of a referendum
99 question, shall be subject to the prohibition on making contributions
100 under subsection (e) of this section unless the treasurer of the committee
101 has filed a registration statement as described in subsection (b) of section
102 9-605 with the commission, on forms prescribed by the commission, on
103 or before November 15, 2012, for all such political committees in
104 existence on such date, or, if the committee is not in existence on such
105 date, not later than ten days after the organization of the committee
106 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-605, and on or before November
107 fifteenth of each even-numbered year thereafter. Such statements shall
108 be filed even if there are no changes, additions or deletions to the
109 registration statement previously filed with the commission.
110 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, if an officer of the
111 committee has changed since the last registration statement filed with
112 the commission, such registration statement shall be filed by the
113 chairperson of the committee.

114 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-623 of the general statutes is

115 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
116 *1, 2027*):

117 (b) (1) If any treasurer fails to file any statement required by section
118 9-608, as amended by this act, or if any candidate fails to file either (A)
119 a statement for the formation of a candidate committee as required by
120 section 9-604, as amended by this act, or (B) a certification pursuant to
121 section 9-603, as amended by this act, that the candidate is exempt from
122 forming a candidate committee as required by section 9-604, as
123 amended by this act, within the time required, the treasurer or
124 candidate, as the case may be, shall pay a late filing fee of one hundred
125 dollars.

126 (2) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required
127 to be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the
128 commission shall, not later than ten days after the filing deadline is, or
129 should be, known to have passed, notify by certified mail, return receipt
130 requested, the person required to file that, if such statement or
131 certification is not filed not later than twenty-one days after such notice,
132 the person is in violation of section 9-603, as amended by this act, 9-604,
133 as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act.

134 [(3) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required
135 to be filed with a town clerk, the town clerk shall forthwith after the
136 filing deadline is, or should be, known to have passed, notify by certified
137 mail, return receipt requested, the person required to file that, if such
138 statement or certification is not filed not later than seven days after the
139 town clerk mails such notice, the town clerk shall notify the State
140 Elections Enforcement Commission that the person is in violation of
141 section 9-603, 9-604 or 9-608.]

142 [(4)] (3) The penalty for any violation of section 9-603, as amended by
143 this act, 9-604, as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act,
144 shall be a fine of not less than two hundred dollars or more than two
145 thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

146 Sec. 6. Section 9-624 of the general statutes is repealed and the

147 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

148 [(a)] The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall prepare and
149 print the forms required for compliance with this chapter and distribute
150 them upon request to candidates and treasurers.

151 [(b)] The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall, at the
152 expense of the state, prepare and print all forms for statements required
153 to be returned under the provisions of this chapter and shall furnish to
154 each town clerk a sufficient supply of each of such blank forms as are
155 required to be filed with or returned to the town clerk. The town clerk
156 of each town shall, upon request, distribute to treasurers the forms
157 required for compliance with this chapter and, if not salaried, shall be
158 entitled to receive from the town the sum of ten cents for each copy.]

159 Sec. 7. Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the
160 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

161 (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall (1) create a
162 web-based program for the preparation and electronic submission of
163 registration and financial disclosure statements required by chapters
164 155 to 157, inclusive, and (2) prescribe the standard reporting format
165 and specifications for any software program created by a vendor for
166 such purpose. No software program created by a vendor may be used
167 for the electronic submission of such financial disclosure statements
168 unless the commission determines that the software program provides
169 for the standard reporting format and complies with the specifications
170 prescribed under subdivision (2) of this subsection for any such
171 software program. The commission shall provide training in the use of
172 the web-based program created by the commission.

173 (b) [On and after July 1, 2017, the] The following shall file all financial
174 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, by
175 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section: (1) The
176 treasurer of the candidate committee or exploratory committee for each
177 candidate for nomination or election to [the office of Governor,
178 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State

179 Treasurer, Secretary of the State, state senator, state representative or
180 judge of probate that] public office or the position of town committee
181 member, which candidate committee or exploratory committee raises or
182 spends one thousand dollars or more, (2) the treasurer of any state
183 central committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership
184 committee, (3) the treasurer of any other political committee or town
185 committee [required to be registered with the commission] that (A)
186 raises or spends one thousand dollars or more during the current
187 calendar year, or (B) raised or spent one thousand dollars or more in the
188 preceding regular election cycle, and (4) the treasurer of any committee,
189 or any other person, who makes or obligates to make any independent
190 expenditure and who is required to file a financial disclosure statement
191 of any such independent expenditure [with the State Elections
192 Enforcement Commission] in accordance with the provisions of section
193 9-601d. Once any such candidate committee or exploratory committee
194 has raised or spent one thousand dollars or more during an election
195 campaign, all previously filed statements required by chapters 155 to
196 157, inclusive, which were not filed by electronic submission shall be
197 refiled in such manner not later than the date on which the treasurer of
198 such committee is required to file its next financial disclosure statement.

199 (c) (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee for any other
200 candidate, as defined in section 9-601, that neither raises nor spends one
201 thousand dollars or more who is required to file the financial disclosure
202 statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the
203 commission,] and (2) the treasurer of any other political committee or
204 town committee that neither raises nor spends one thousand dollars or
205 more who is required to file the financial disclosure statements required
206 by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the State Elections Enforcement
207 Commission] may file any such financial disclosure statements by
208 electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

209 (d) All registration statements required by chapters 155 to 157,
210 inclusive, shall be filed by electronic submission pursuant to
211 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

212 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, upon the
213 written request of [a treasurer or any other] any person responsible for
214 filing any financial disclosure statement described in subdivisions (1) to
215 (4), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, or any registration
216 statement described in subsection (d) of this section, the commission
217 may waive the requirement to file by electronic submission pursuant to
218 subsection (a) of this section if such [treasurer or other] person
219 demonstrates good cause.

220 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-703 of the general statutes is
221 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
222 *1, 2027*):

223 (a) Each candidate for nomination or election to the office of state
224 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of
225 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,
226 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, shall file
227 an affidavit with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The
228 affidavit shall include a written certification that the candidate either
229 intends to abide by the expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election
230 Program set forth in subsection (c) of section 9-702, or does not intend
231 to abide by said limits. If the candidate intends to abide by said limits,
232 the affidavit shall also include written certifications (1) that the treasurer
233 of the candidate committee for said candidate shall expend any moneys
234 received from the Citizens' Election Fund in accordance with the
235 provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by
236 the State Elections Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of
237 section 9-706, (2) that the candidate shall repay to the fund any such
238 moneys that are not expended in accordance with subsection (g) of
239 section 9-607 and said regulations, (3) that the candidate and the
240 treasurer shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (1) of
241 subsection (a) of section 9-711, and (4) stating the candidate's status as a
242 major party, minor party or petitioning party candidate and, in the case
243 of a major party or minor party candidate, the name of such party. The
244 written certification described in subdivision (3) of this subsection shall
245 be made by both the candidate and the treasurer of the candidate

246 committee for said candidate. A candidate for nomination or election to
 247 any such office shall file such affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m.
 248 on the twenty-fifth day before the day of a primary, if applicable, or on
 249 the fortieth day before the day of the election for such office, except that
 250 in the case of a special election for the office of state senator or state
 251 representative, the candidate shall file such affidavit not later than four
 252 o'clock p.m. on the twenty-fifth day before the day of such special
 253 election. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a candidate
 254 who is not required to form a candidate committee pursuant to
 255 subdivision (3) or (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-604, files a
 256 certification with the commission pursuant to subsection [(c)] (b) of
 257 section 9-603, as amended by this act, and does not intend to participate
 258 in the Citizens' Election Program shall not be required to file such
 259 affidavit of intent not to abide by the expenditure limits of said program.
 260 Any such candidate shall be referred to as a nonparticipating candidate,
 261 in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-603
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-604(d)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-608(d)
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-610(f)(2)
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-623(b)
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-624
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-675
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-703(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To require that all municipal campaign registration and financial disclosure statements be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, instead of with town clerks.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]