



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State

Judicial Candidate Seminar 2025-2026

Alexxis Palumbo – Senior Legal Counsel

Heather Moore-Kester- Campaign Finance Deputy Administrator



GETTING STARTED

Pick a Treasurer



File a
Designation of
Treasurer



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 (Primary, General, Special)**
 - Pre-Election Report
 - Post-Election Report
- **Non-Election Related Filings**
 - Semiannual – Judicial Candidates do NOT need to file this
 - Annual – filed for years when the candidate was not on the ballot

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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 Annual**¹.....**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**.
- Semiannual**².....**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 BOE

Secretary of
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REPORTING: HOW TO FILE

Local
County BOE

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

- Each Contribution Entry must have specific details provided.
- 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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EXPENDITURES

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



REPORTING EXPENDITURES

- Each expenditure entry must include:
 - Complete Name of Payee
 - Street Address (except for banks & post offices)
 - Date
 - Amount
 - Detailed Purpose

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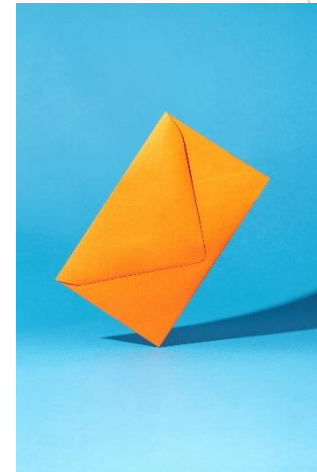
NON-MONETARY ACTIVITY: IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

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



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

- Missing Data
- Missing Expenditure verification
- Direct corporate contributions
- Cover page balances not calculated correctly
- Cash Contributions over \$100
- Improper use of fund-raiser itemization exemption
- Vague purpose reported for expenditures
- Reporting in the wrong period
- Failure to use correct balance brought forward
- Unverified reimbursements

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DISCLAIMERS

- Must include “Paid for by [Committee Name]”
- Must be conspicuously placed
- Must be included on all items unless an exemption exists or is granted in writing by the Secretary of State



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QUESTIONS?

- SOS Campaign Finance Division
 - (614) 466-3111
 - CFinance@OhioSoS.gov (for questions and disclaimer exemption requests)
 - CFforms@OhioSoS.gov (to submit forms)
- Contact Alexxis Palumbo- Senior Legal Counsel
 - APalumbo@OhioSoS.gov
- 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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