

Campaign Finance How-To

All candidates for local elective offices are subject to the provisions of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act [P.A. 388 of 1976].

- As soon as an individual becomes a “candidate”, he/she has 10 calendar days to form a Candidate Committee.
- After the Committee’s formation date, the candidate has an additional 10 calendar days to register the committee by filing a Statement of Organization.

A person becomes a candidate under the Campaign Finance Act on the date he/she:

- Files a nominating petition, filing fee or an affidavit of identity.
- Receives a contribution or makes an expenditure or gives consent to someone else to receive or expend funds to bring about the individual’s nomination or election to an elective office.
- Is nominated for an elective office by a political party caucus or convention.

Where to File Campaign Finance Documents

A candidate for a **county, city, township, village, school** or other local elective office is required to file Statement of Organization and other Campaign Finance documents with the County Clerk, 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010. Phone 269.673-0450.

A candidate for **state elective office or a judicial office** is required to file Statement of Organization and other Campaign Finance documents with the Bureau of Elections through the MERTS plus program on the Secretary of State, [Bureau of Elections website](#). [SOS - Elections \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Waiver of Reporting

Candidates who do not expect to receive or expend \$1,000 in an election may check box #10 on the Statement of Organization to waive the requirement to file periodic campaign financial reports. **Being granted a waiver does not exempt the candidate from any provisions of the act other than the reporting provision.**

All candidates who receive or expend **any** funds to seek public office must keep careful records of donations received and/or records of money spent-whether or not they have been granted a reporting waiver.

The candidate’s campaign finance bank account should show all receipts and expenditures on behalf of the campaign.