

RESOLVED, That the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners hereby ordains:

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING ORDINANCE COUNTY ELECTIONS,
REPORTING REQUIRED; CRIMINAL PENALTY

SECTION I DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purposes of this ordinance, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

- A. Candidate. "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county office.
- B. Committee. "Committee" means a corporation or association or persons acting together to influence the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate.
- C. Contribution. "Contribution" means anything of monetary value that is given or loaned to a candidate or committee for a political purpose. "Contribution" does not include a service provided without compensation by an individual.
- D. Disbursement. "Disbursement" means money, property, office, position, or any other thing of value that passes or is directly or indirectly conveyed, given promised, paid, expended, pledged, contributed, or lent. "Disbursement" does not include payment by a county or other political subdivision for election-related expenditures required or authorized by law.
- E. Filing office. "Filing office" means the Ramsey County Elections Office.
- F. Political purpose. An act is done for a "political purpose" if it is of a nature, done with the intent, or done in a way to influence or tend to influence, directly or indirectly, voting at a primary or an election or if it is done because a person is about to vote, has voted, or has refrained from voting at a primary or an election.

SECTION II FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. When and where filed. Reports shall be made as follows:
 - 1. A committee or a candidate who receives contributions or makes disbursements in excess of \$750 in a calendar year shall submit an initial report to the filing office within 14 days after the candidate or committee receives or makes disbursements in excess of \$750 and shall continue to make the reports listed in paragraph (2) until a final report is filed.
 - 2. The committee or candidate must file a report by January 31 of each year following the year when the initial report was filed and in a year when the candidate's name appears on the ballot, the candidate or committee shall file a report;
 - (a) ten days before the primary or special primary;
 - (b) ten days before the general election or special election; and

(c) 30 days after a general or special election.

B. Information required. The report to be filed by a candidate or committee must include:

(a) the name of the candidate;

(b) the name and address of the person responsible for filing the report;

(c) the total amount of receipts and expenditures for the period from the last previous report to five days before the current report is due;

(d) the purpose for each expenditure; and

(e) the name of any individual or committee that during the year has made one or more contributions that in the aggregate for the calendar year equals \$100 or more.

SECTION III FINAL REPORT

A candidate or committee may file a final report when all debts have been settled and all assets in excess of \$100 in the aggregate are disposed of. The final report may be filed at any time and must include the kinds of information contained in the financial statements required by Minnesota Statutes section 211A.02 for the period from the last previous report to the date of the final report.

SECTION IV REPORT FORMS

Copies of the forms required by this ordinance must be furnished through the Ramsey County Elections Office to a committee or candidate upon request.

SECTION V FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT

A. Penalty. A candidate who intentionally fails to file a report required by this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each candidate shall certify to the filing office that all reports required by this ordinance have been submitted to the filing office or that the candidate or committee has not received contributions or made disbursements in excess of \$750 in the calendar year. The certification shall be submitted to the filing office no later than seven days after the general or special election. An officer who issues a certificate of election to a candidate who has not certified that all reports required by this ordinance have been filed is guilty of a misdemeanor.

B. Notice of failure to file. If a candidate or committee fails to file a report on the date it is due, the filing office shall immediately notify the candidate or committee and the county attorney. If a report is not filed within ten days after the notification is mailed, the county attorney shall proceed with an inquiry.

SECTION VI DUTIES OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

If the county attorney is notified of an alleged violation of this ordinance, the county attorney shall promptly investigate. If there is probable cause to institute a prosecution, the county attorney shall proceed by complaint or present the charge with whatever evidence has been found to the grand jury. The county attorney shall prosecute all violations of this ordinance; if, however, a complainant desires to withdraw a complaint under this ordinance, the county attorney is not required to proceed with prosecution.