

Vermont Campaign Finance 101: Candidates

**A Brief Description of the Who's, What's, Where's, When's, and
Why's of Vermont's Campaign Finance System for Candidates**

VCF 101: Questions to be Answered

- Introductions
- Who has to file?
- What do they have to file?
- Where do they have to file?
- When do they have to file by?
- Why are they filing?
- Helpful Resources

VCF 101: Introductions

- Gordon N. Merrick, J.D. – Election Administrator

VCF 101: Who Has to File?

- All Candidates for General Assembly, Statewide positions, and County positions;
- Local candidates planning on spending or have spent \$500 or more; and
- Any person who is spending over \$650 for a mass media activity within 45 days of an election

VCF 101: What Do They Have to File?

- All Registered Candidates must:
 - File all Campaign Finance Reports when due; OR
 - In lieu of a report, file an Attestation that they are not required to file for that period.
- A Campaign Finance Report will automatically pull and list all transactions that have been entered into the Campaign Finance System that occurred during the applicable filing period

VCF 101: Where Do They Have to File?

- All filings happen online via the new Vermont Campaign Finance System (<https://campaignfinance.vermont.gov/>)
- Filings **will not** be accepted in-person or physically.

VCF 101: When Do They Have to File by?

- General Assembly, Statewide, and County Office Candidates in the 2026 Election must File by:
 - July 1 of 2025, March 15, July 1, August 1, September 1, October 1, October 15, October 30, and November 17, with a final report due December 15.
- Registered Local candidates must file by:
 - Thirty days before, ten days before, four days before, and two weeks after the local election with a final report due forty days after the election
- A Filing period must include all transactions (contributions and expenditures) that took place up until three days before the filing deadline, for example:
 - July 1: either 3/13 or start of campaign through 6/28
 - August 1: 6/29 through 7/29

VCF 101: Why are they filing?

- Transparency
- Ensuring collective compliance with contribution limits
- The Laws say so, and the Attorney General enforces the Law, penalties include:
 - Knowing and intentional violation: up to \$1,000 criminal fine and 6 months in prison
 - General violation: up to \$1,000 civil fine for each violation, refunding contributions/expenditures to the Secretary for campaign grant recipients
 - Injunctive relief

VCF 101: Helpful Resources

- [Frequently Asked Questions on Campaign Finance](#)
- [Campaign Finance Guide](#)
- [Vermont Statutes](#)
- [Campaign Finance System](#)
- "Quick Reference Guides" for Specific Actions in the Campaign Finance System
- Questions? Please reach out to sos.campaignfinance@vermont.gov or 802-828-0588

Accessibility Requests

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alternative format or for other
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Sos.Accessibility@Vermont.gov