



GENERAL ELECTION REPORT NOTICE

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

October 1, 2012

CURRENT REPORT DUE FOR 2012 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE COMMITTEES

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD ¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Pre-General	10/01/12 - 10/17/12	10/22/12	10/25/12
48-Hour Notices	10/18/12 - 11/03/12	-- general candidates only – see filing info --	
Post-General	10/18/12 - 11/26/12	12/06/12	12/06/12

REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF 2012

2012 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD ¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Year-End	11/27/12 - 12/31/12	01/31/13	01/31/13

UNSUCCESSFUL 2012 PRIMARY ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES AND CANDIDATES NOT ACTIVE IN 2012 ELECTIONS

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD ¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Year-End	10/01/12 - 12/31/12	01/31/13	01/31/13

[Click here for Supplemental Filing Information](#)

¹A reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered up through the close of books for the first report due.

2012 SUPPLEMENTAL FILING INFORMATION CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

PLEASE NOTE: The Commission provides reminders of upcoming filing dates as a courtesy to help committees comply with the filing deadlines set forth in the Act and Commission regulations. Committee treasurers must comply with all applicable filing deadlines established by law, and the lack of prior notice does not constitute an excuse for failing to comply with any filing deadline.

WHO MUST FILE

Principal campaign committees of congressional candidates ¹ (including unopposed candidates and candidates whose names do not appear on the ballot) must file Quarterly Reports in 2012. ²

Campaigns that raise or spend more than \$5,000 for the 2012 election cycle (and thus trigger registration and reporting requirements) must file quarterly reports throughout 2012, even if the candidate plans to retire, withdraws from the race prior to the primary election, loses the primary or drops out of the race prior to the general election. See [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)\(2\)](#).

Before a committee can stop filing with the FEC, it must file a termination report with the Commission. See [11 CFR 102.3](#). Committees must continue to file reports until the Commission notifies them in writing that their termination report has been accepted.

METHODS OF FILING REPORTS

Electronic Filing

Reports filed electronically must be received and validated by the Commission by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing deadline. See [11 CFR 104.5\(e\)](#). See also [11 CFR 104.18](#) and [100.19](#).

- Web Page: [Electronic Filing Page](#)
- [Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees \(Candidate Guide\)](#), pp. 83-86 [PDF]

Paper Filing - Meeting the Filing Deadline

Paper Report filing options -- Registered, Certified or Overnight or First Class Mail. See [11 CFR 104.5\(e\)](#). See also [11 CFR 100.19](#).

- Web Page: [Link to Paper Forms](#) (for downloading and printing)
- [Candidate Guide, p. 82](#) [PDF]

¹ Generally, an individual becomes a candidate for federal office (and thus triggers registration and reporting obligations) when his or her campaign exceeds \$5,000 in either contributions or expenditures. If the campaign has not crossed the \$5,000 threshold, it is not required to file reports. See [11 CFR 100.3\(a\)](#). See also [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)](#).

² If a candidate has more than one authorized committee, the principal campaign committee files a consolidated report on [Form 3Z](#) [PDF]. See [11 CFR 104.3\(f\)](#).

PRE- AND POST-ELECTION REPORTS

The principal campaign committee of any candidate participating in a 2012 state primary, nominating convention or runoff election -- even if unopposed -- must also file a pre-election report 12 days prior to the primary, nominating convention or runoff. The principal campaign committee of a candidate who participates in the general election must file pre- and post-general election reports. See [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)\(2\)](#).

- Web Page: [2012 Congressional Pre-Primary Reporting Dates](#)
- The Record:
 - [FEC Record Blog: Reporting](#)
 - [January 2012 issue](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, pp. 81-82](#) [PDF]

48 HOUR NOTICES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The principal campaign committee must file notices if any authorized committees receive any contribution (**including in-kind gifts or advances of goods or services; loans from the candidate or other non-bank sources; and guarantees or endorsements of bank loans to the candidate or committee**) of \$1,000 or more per source, during the period less than 20 days but more than 48 hours before any election in which the candidate is running. See [11 CFR 104.5\(f\)](#).

The notices must reach the appropriate federal filing office within 48 hours of the committee's receipt of the contribution(s). **Campaign committees that file electronically MUST submit their 48-hour notices electronically.** See [11 CFR 104.5\(f\)](#).

- Web Page: [Electronic Filing Page](#)
- Web Page: [Link to Paper Forms](#) (for downloading and printing)
- Web Page: [Link to Web Form 6](#) (for online submission)
- Form 6 Fax numbers
 - Senate campaigns (Secretary of the Senate): (202) 224-1851
 - House Campaigns (FEC): (202) 219-0174
- Campaign Guide: [Candidate Guide, p. 81](#) [PDF]

2012 REPORTING SCHEDULE

- Web Page: [2012 Reporting Dates Page](#)
- The Record:
 - [FEC Record Blog: Reporting](#)
 - [January 2012 issue](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, p. 83](#) [PDF]

COMPLIANCE

Treasurer Responsibility

Committee Treasurers are responsible for both the timeliness and the accuracy of all reports. They may be subject to monetary penalties if reports are inaccurate or are not filed on time. See [11 CFR 104.14\(d\)](#).

- [Statement of Policy Regarding Treasurers Subject to Enforcement Proceedings](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, p. 7-9](#) [PDF]

Administrative Fine Program

Political committees and their treasurers who fail to file their reports on time may be subject to civil money penalties up to \$17,600 (or more for repeat late- and non-filers).³ See generally, [11 CFR Part 111 Subpart B](#). See also [11 CFR 111.43](#).

- Web Page: [Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [Candidate Guide, pp. 82-83](#) [PDF]

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYIST BUNDLING ACTIVITY

Campaign committees must file [FEC Form 3L](#) [PDF] if they receive two or more bundled contributions from lobbyists/registrants or lobbyist/registrant PACs that aggregate in excess of \$16,700 during the applicable reporting period ([see page 1 of this notice](#)). See [11 CFR 104.22](#) and [11 CFR 110.17\(f\)](#).

- The Record: [March 2009 issue](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, Appendix F, pp. 155-161](#) [PDF]

IMPORTANT FILING INFORMATION - PAPER FILERS

In response to the 2001 anthrax threat, the U.S. Postal Service is irradiating mail directed to many federal agencies, including the FEC and the Secretary of the Senate.⁴ This process has not only delayed mail delivery, it has also damaged and in some cases destroyed pieces of mail. As a result, committees that file reports with the FEC may want to consider submitting their reports by some means other than U.S. mail. Alternative methods include electronic filing, overnight mail or delivery service, and hand delivery.

³ Penalties for late- or non-filing of 48-hour notices are based on the amount of contributions not timely disclosed. As a result, these penalties may exceed \$17,600, even for first-time violations.

⁴ Senate committees should contact the Secretary of the Senate at (202) 224-0322 for more information on filing reports via US mail.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: (800) 424-9530 or (202) 694-1100