

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H2/4/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1281

By: Representatives McAlindon, *Underwood*

By: Senator C. Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE;
TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
AND EXPENDITURES; TO AMEND REPORTING FOR A CANDIDATE
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWNSHIP, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE;
TO AMEND REPORTING FOR A CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY OFFICE;
TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED
FROM INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND REPORTING FOR A CANDIDATE FOR
CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND FOR COUNTY
OFFICE; AND TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE
ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED FROM
INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(a), concerning required reporting of contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(a) *Reports Required.* Except as provided in ~~subsection~~ subsections (d) and (e) of this section, each candidate for school district, township, or municipal office, or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall:

(1)(A) *For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and expenditures made during that year.*



(B) *The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of the year;*

(2) No later than ~~seven (7)~~ sixty (60) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the ~~period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election~~ date of the filing of the report;

(3) No later than thirty (30) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the date of the filing of the report;

~~(3)~~(4) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);

~~(4)~~(5) *File supplemental reports of all contributions received and expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report. The supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;*

~~(5)~~ (6)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate has withdrawn, file a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed.

(B) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and
~~(6)~~(7) If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this subsection.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(d), concerning reports not required for candidates for a county office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Reports Not Required.

~~(1)~~ A candidate who has not received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall not be required to file any preelection reports required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. In calculating the amount of contributions received or expenditures made for purposes of this exception, the payment of the filing fee from the candidate's personal funds shall not be considered as either a contribution or an expenditure.

~~(2) The preelection reports referenced in subdivision (a)(1) of this section are only required only for candidates with opponents in those elections.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208, concerning reports not required for candidates for a county officer and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(e) A candidate who has received contributions in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall file a preelection report monthly under this section.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a), concerning required reporting of contributions for candidates for a county office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Reports Required. Except as provided in ~~subsection~~ subsections (d) and (e) of this section, each candidate for county office or a person acting in the candidate's behalf shall:

(1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and expenditures made during that year.

(B) *The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of the year;*

(2) No later than ~~seven (7)~~ sixty (60) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the ~~period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election~~ date of the filing of the report;

(3) No later than thirty (30) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the date of the filing of the report;

~~(3)~~(4) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or *made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);*

~~(4)~~(5) *File supplemental reports of all contributions received and expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report, and the supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;*

~~(5)~~ (6)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate has withdrawn, a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed.

(B) *If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and*

~~(6)(7)~~ If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this subsection.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(d), concerning reports not required for contributions of candidates for a county office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Reports Not Required.

~~(1)~~ A candidate who has not received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall not be required to file any preelection reports required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. In calculating the amount of contributions received or expenditures made for purposes of this exception, the payment of the filing fee from the candidate's personal funds shall not be considered as either a contribution or an expenditure.

~~(2) The preelection reports referenced in subdivision (a)(1) of this section are required only for candidates with opponents in those elections.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209, concerning reports not required for contributions of candidates for a county office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(e) A candidate who has received contributions in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall file a preelection report monthly under this section.

/s/McAlindon