



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 6864**

LCO No. 3884



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILINGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-603 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

3 (a) Statements filed by party committees, political committees  
4 formed to aid or promote the success or defeat of a referendum  
5 question, [proposing a constitutional convention, constitutional  
6 amendment or revision of the Constitution, individual lobbyists,] and  
7 those political committees and candidate committees formed to aid or  
8 promote the success or defeat of any candidate for [the office of  
9 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer,  
10 State Comptroller, Attorney General, judge of probate and members of  
11 the General Assembly] public office or the position of town committee  
12 member, shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement  
13 Commission. A political committee formed for a slate of candidates in  
14 a primary for the office of justice of the peace shall file statements with  
15 the [town clerk of the municipality in which the primary is to be held]

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16 State Elections Enforcement Commission.

17 [(b) Statements filed by political committees formed solely to aid or  
18 promote the success or defeat of a referendum question to be voted  
19 upon by the electors of a single municipality and those political  
20 committees or candidate committees formed to aid or promote the  
21 success or defeat of any candidate for public office, other than those  
22 enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, or the position of town  
23 committee member shall be filed only with the town clerk of the  
24 municipality in which the election or referendum is to be held. Each  
25 unsalaried town clerk shall be entitled to receive ten cents from the  
26 town for the filing of each such statement.]

27 [(c)] (b) A certification of a candidate who is exempt from the  
28 requirement of subsection (a) of section 9-604 to form a candidate  
29 committee shall be filed with the State Elections Enforcement  
30 Commission. [if the candidate seeks an office enumerated in  
31 subsection (a) of this section, or with the town clerk of the municipality  
32 in which the election is to be held if the candidate seeks an office other  
33 than those enumerated. A certification of a group of individuals who  
34 have joined solely to aid or promote a referendum question and who  
35 are exempt from the requirement to form a political committee under  
36 section 9-605 shall be filed with the town clerk of each municipality in  
37 which the referendum is to be held.]

38 [(d)] (c) On December 31, 2006, the duties of the Secretary of the  
39 State concerning the administration of campaign finance reporting  
40 under this chapter shall be transferred to the State Elections  
41 Enforcement Commission.

42 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-604 of the general statutes is  
43 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
44 *January 1, 2027*):

45 (d) A slate of candidates in a primary for the office of justice of the  
46 peace shall designate a chairperson to form a single political committee

47 to comply with the requirements of section 9-605, except if the  
48 individuals on the slate unanimously consent to have their campaign  
49 financed solely by a town committee and such committee consents to  
50 such financing by filing a statement of consent with the [town clerk of  
51 the municipality in which the primary is to be held] State Elections  
52 Enforcement Commission.

53 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-608 of the general statutes is  
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
55 *January 1, 2027*):

56 (d) At the time of filing statements required under this section, the  
57 treasurer of each candidate committee shall send to the candidate a  
58 duplicate statement and the treasurer of each party committee and  
59 each political committee other than an exploratory committee shall  
60 send to the chairman of the committee a duplicate statement. Each  
61 statement required to be filed [with the commission] under this  
62 section, section 9-601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712 shall be deemed  
63 to be filed in a timely manner if: (1) For a statement filed as a hard  
64 copy, including, but not limited to, a statement delivered by the United  
65 States Postal Service, courier service, parcel service or hand delivery,  
66 the statement is received by the commission by five o'clock p.m. on the  
67 day the statement is required to be filed, (2) for a statement authorized  
68 by the commission to be filed electronically, including, but not limited  
69 to, a statement filed via dedicated electronic mail, facsimile machine, a  
70 web-based program created by the commission or other electronic  
71 means, the statement is transmitted to the commission not later than  
72 eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. on the day the statement is required to be  
73 filed, or (3) for a statement required to be filed pursuant to section 9-  
74 601d, section 9-706 or section 9-712, by the deadline specified in each  
75 such section. [Any other filing required to be filed with a town clerk  
76 pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be filed in a timely manner  
77 if it is delivered by hand to the office of the town clerk in accordance  
78 with the provisions of section 9-603 before four-thirty o'clock p.m. or  
79 postmarked by the United States Postal Service before midnight on the

80 required filing day.] If the day for any filing falls on a Saturday,  
81 Sunday or legal holiday, the statement shall be filed on the next  
82 business day thereafter. The State Elections Enforcement Commission  
83 shall not levy a penalty upon a treasurer for failure to file a hard copy  
84 of a statement in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of  
85 this section if such treasurer has a copy of the statement time stamped  
86 by the State Elections Enforcement Commission that shows timely  
87 receipt of the statement or the treasurer has a return receipt from the  
88 United States Postal Service or a similar receipt from a commercial  
89 delivery service confirming timely delivery of such statement was  
90 made or should have been made to said commission.

91 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 9-610 of the general  
92 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
93 (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

94 (2) A political committee established for ongoing political activities,  
95 [and required pursuant to subsection (a) of section 9-603 to file  
96 statements with the commission] other than a committee established  
97 solely for the purpose of aiding or promoting any candidate or  
98 candidates for municipal office or the success or defeat of a  
99 referendum question, shall be subject to the prohibition on making  
100 contributions under subsection (e) of this section unless the treasurer  
101 of the committee has filed a registration statement as described in  
102 subsection (b) of section 9-605 with the commission, on forms  
103 prescribed by the commission, on or before November 15, 2012, for all  
104 such political committees in existence on such date, or, if the  
105 committee is not in existence on such date, not later than ten days after  
106 the organization of the committee pursuant to subsection (a) of section  
107 9-605, and on or before November fifteenth of each even-numbered  
108 year thereafter. Such statements shall be filed even if there are no  
109 changes, additions or deletions to the registration statement previously  
110 filed with the commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
111 subdivision, if an officer of the committee has changed since the last  
112 registration statement filed with the commission, such registration

113 statement shall be filed by the chairperson of the committee.

114 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-623 of the general statutes is  
115 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
116 *January 1, 2027*):

117 (b) (1) If any treasurer fails to file any statement required by section  
118 9-608, as amended by this act, or if any candidate fails to file either (A)  
119 a statement for the formation of a candidate committee as required by  
120 section 9-604, as amended by this act, or (B) a certification pursuant to  
121 section 9-603, as amended by this act, that the candidate is exempt  
122 from forming a candidate committee as required by section 9-604, as  
123 amended by this act, within the time required, the treasurer or  
124 candidate, as the case may be, shall pay a late filing fee of one hundred  
125 dollars.

126 (2) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required  
127 to be filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the  
128 commission shall, not later than ten days after the filing deadline is, or  
129 should be, known to have passed, notify by certified mail, return  
130 receipt requested, the person required to file that, if such statement or  
131 certification is not filed not later than twenty-one days after such  
132 notice, the person is in violation of section 9-603, as amended by this  
133 act, 9-604, as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this act.

134 [(3) In the case of any such statement or certification that is required  
135 to be filed with a town clerk, the town clerk shall forthwith after the  
136 filing deadline is, or should be, known to have passed, notify by  
137 certified mail, return receipt requested, the person required to file that,  
138 if such statement or certification is not filed not later than seven days  
139 after the town clerk mails such notice, the town clerk shall notify the  
140 State Elections Enforcement Commission that the person is in violation  
141 of section 9-603, 9-604 or 9-608.]

142 [(4)] (3) The penalty for any violation of section 9-603, as amended  
143 by this act, 9-604, as amended by this act, or 9-608, as amended by this

144 act, shall be a fine of not less than two hundred dollars or more than  
145 two thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or  
146 both.

147 Sec. 6. Section 9-624 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
148 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

149 [(a)] The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall prepare and  
150 print the forms required for compliance with this chapter and  
151 distribute them upon request to candidates and treasurers.

152 [(b)] The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall, at the  
153 expense of the state, prepare and print all forms for statements  
154 required to be returned under the provisions of this chapter and shall  
155 furnish to each town clerk a sufficient supply of each of such blank  
156 forms as are required to be filed with or returned to the town clerk.  
157 The town clerk of each town shall, upon request, distribute to  
158 treasurers the forms required for compliance with this chapter and, if  
159 not salaried, shall be entitled to receive from the town the sum of ten  
160 cents for each copy.]

161 Sec. 7. Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
162 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

163 (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall (1) create a  
164 web-based program for the preparation and electronic submission of  
165 registration and financial disclosure statements required by chapters  
166 155 to 157, inclusive, and (2) prescribe the standard reporting format  
167 and specifications for any software program created by a vendor for  
168 such purpose. No software program created by a vendor may be used  
169 for the electronic submission of such financial disclosure statements  
170 unless the commission determines that the software program provides  
171 for the standard reporting format and complies with the specifications  
172 prescribed under subdivision (2) of this subsection for any such  
173 software program. The commission shall provide training in the use of  
174 the web-based program created by the commission.

175 (b) [On and after July 1, 2017, the] The following shall file all  
176 financial disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157,  
177 inclusive, by electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
178 section: (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee or exploratory  
179 committee for each candidate for nomination or election to [the office  
180 of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
181 Comptroller, State Treasurer, Secretary of the State, state senator, state  
182 representative or judge of probate that] public office or the position of  
183 town committee member, which candidate committee or exploratory  
184 committee raises or spends one thousand dollars or more, (2) the  
185 treasurer of any state central committee, legislative caucus committee  
186 or legislative leadership committee, (3) the treasurer of any other  
187 political committee or town committee [required to be registered with  
188 the commission] that (A) raises or spends one thousand dollars or  
189 more during the current calendar year, or (B) raised or spent one  
190 thousand dollars or more in the preceding regular election cycle, and  
191 (4) the treasurer of any committee, or any other person, who makes or  
192 obligates to make any independent expenditure and who is required to  
193 file a financial disclosure statement of any such independent  
194 expenditure [with the State Elections Enforcement Commission] in  
195 accordance with the provisions of section 9-601d. Once any such  
196 candidate committee or exploratory committee has raised or spent one  
197 thousand dollars or more during an election campaign, all previously  
198 filed statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, which were  
199 not filed by electronic submission shall be refiled in such manner not  
200 later than the date on which the treasurer of such committee is  
201 required to file its next financial disclosure statement.

202 (c) (1) The treasurer of the candidate committee for any other  
203 candidate, as defined in section 9-601, that neither raises nor spends  
204 one thousand dollars or more who is required to file the financial  
205 disclosure statements required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with  
206 the commission,] and (2) the treasurer of any other political committee  
207 or town committee that neither raises nor spends one thousand dollars  
208 or more who is required to file the financial disclosure statements

209 required by chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, [with the State Elections  
210 Enforcement Commission] may file any such financial disclosure  
211 statements by electronic submission pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
212 section.

213 (d) All registration statements required by chapters 155 to 157,  
214 inclusive, shall be filed by electronic submission pursuant to  
215 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

216 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, upon the  
217 written request of [a treasurer or any other] any person responsible for  
218 filing any financial disclosure statement described in subdivisions (1)  
219 to (4), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section, or any registration  
220 statement described in subsection (d) of this section, the commission  
221 may waive the requirement to file by electronic submission pursuant  
222 to subsection (a) of this section if such [treasurer or other] person  
223 demonstrates good cause.

224 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-703 of the general statutes is  
225 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
226 *January 1, 2027*):

227 (a) Each candidate for nomination or election to the office of state  
228 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of  
229 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller,  
230 Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, shall file  
231 an affidavit with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The  
232 affidavit shall include a written certification that the candidate either  
233 intends to abide by the expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election  
234 Program set forth in subsection (c) of section 9-702, or does not intend  
235 to abide by said limits. If the candidate intends to abide by said limits,  
236 the affidavit shall also include written certifications (1) that the  
237 treasurer of the candidate committee for said candidate shall expend  
238 any moneys received from the Citizens' Election Fund in accordance  
239 with the provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 and regulations  
240 adopted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission under



241 subsection (e) of section 9-706, (2) that the candidate shall repay to the  
 242 fund any such moneys that are not expended in accordance with  
 243 subsection (g) of section 9-607 and said regulations, (3) that the  
 244 candidate and the treasurer shall comply with the provisions of  
 245 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-711, and (4) stating the  
 246 candidate's status as a major party, minor party or petitioning party  
 247 candidate and, in the case of a major party or minor party candidate,  
 248 the name of such party. The written certification described in  
 249 subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be made by both the candidate  
 250 and the treasurer of the candidate committee for said candidate. A  
 251 candidate for nomination or election to any such office shall file such  
 252 affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m. on the twenty-fifth day before  
 253 the day of a primary, if applicable, or on the fortieth day before the day  
 254 of the election for such office, except that in the case of a special  
 255 election for the office of state senator or state representative, the  
 256 candidate shall file such affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m. on the  
 257 twenty-fifth day before the day of such special election.  
 258 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a candidate who is  
 259 not required to form a candidate committee pursuant to subdivision  
 260 (3) or (4) of subsection (b) of section 9-604, files a certification with the  
 261 commission pursuant to subsection [(c)] (b) of section 9-603, as  
 262 amended by this act, and does not intend to participate in the Citizens'  
 263 Election Program shall not be required to file such affidavit of intent  
 264 not to abide by the expenditure limits of said program. Any such  
 265 candidate shall be referred to as a nonparticipating candidate, in  
 266 accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2027	9-603
Sec. 2	January 1, 2027	9-604(d)
Sec. 3	January 1, 2027	9-608(d)
Sec. 4	January 1, 2027	9-610(f)(2)
Sec. 5	January 1, 2027	9-623(b)
Sec. 6	January 1, 2027	9-624

Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-675
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-703(a)

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*