

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5386

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require candidates of major parties for the office of President to disclose recent tax return information.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2016

Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. POCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require candidates of major parties for the office of President to disclose recent tax return information.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Presidential Tax  
5 Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF RECENT TAX RETURNS OF CER-**  
2 **TAIN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Federal Elec-  
4 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104) is amended  
5 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(j) DISCLOSURE OF TAX RETURNS OF CERTAIN  
7 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days  
9 after the nomination of any candidate of a major  
10 party for the office of President, such candidate  
11 shall file with the Commission a copy of the income  
12 tax returns of such candidate for the 3 most recent  
13 taxable years for which such a return has been filed  
14 with the Internal Revenue Service as of the date of  
15 the nomination.

16 “(2) PROCEDURE IF NO INFORMATION  
17 FILED.—In any case in which the candidate of a  
18 major party for the office of President has not filed  
19 with the Commission the income tax returns de-  
20 scribed in paragraph (1) before the date which is 30  
21 days after the date such candidate is nominated, the  
22 Chairman of the Commission shall request the Sec-  
23 retary of the Treasury to provide such returns.

24 “(3) RETURNS MADE PUBLIC.—A tax return  
25 provided to the Commission by a candidate under  
26 paragraph (1) or by the Secretary of the Treasury

1 pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be treated in the  
2 same manner as a report filed by the candidate and,  
3 except as provided in paragraph (4), shall be made  
4 publicly available at the same time and in the same  
5 manner as other reports and statements under this  
6 section.

7 “(4) REDACTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—  
8 Before making any return described in paragraph  
9 (1) or (2) available to the public, the Commission  
10 shall redact such information as the Commission, in  
11 consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury (or  
12 the Secretary’s delegate), determines appropriate.

13 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-  
14 section:

15 “(A) MAJOR PARTY.—The term ‘major  
16 party’ has the meaning given such term by sec-  
17 tion 9002(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
18 1986.

19 “(B) INCOME TAX RETURN.—The term  
20 ‘income tax return’ means any return (as de-  
21 fined in section 6103(b)(1) of the Internal Rev-  
22 enue Code of 1986) relating to Federal income  
23 taxes.”.

24 (b) AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(l) of the Inter-  
2           nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at  
3           the end the following new paragraph:

4           “(23) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION  
5           OF CERTAIN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES BY FED-  
6           ERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Election  
8           Commission may disclose to the public the ap-  
9           plicable returns of any person who has been  
10          nominated as a candidate of a major party (as  
11          defined in section 9002(6)) for the office of  
12          President.

13          “(B) DISCLOSURE TO FEC IN CASES  
14          WHERE CANDIDATE DOES NOT PROVIDE RE-  
15          TURNS.—The Secretary shall, upon written re-  
16          quest from the Chairman of the Federal Elec-  
17          tion Commission pursuant to section 304(j)(2)  
18          of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971,  
19          provide to officers and employees of the Federal  
20          Election Commission copies of the applicable re-  
21          turns of any person who has been nominated as  
22          a candidate of a major party (as defined in sec-  
23          tion 9002(6)) for the office of President.

24          “(C) APPLICABLE RETURNS.—For pur-  
25          poses of this paragraph, the term ‘applicable re-

1           turns’ means, with respect to any candidate for  
2           the office of President, income tax returns for  
3           the 3 most recent taxable years for which a re-  
4           turn has been filed as of the date of the nomi-  
5           nation.”.

6           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section  
7           6103(p)(4) of such Code, in the matter preceding  
8           subparagraph (A) and in subparagraph (F)(ii), is  
9           amended by striking “or (22)” and inserting “(22),  
10          or (23)” each place it appears.

11          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
12          this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
13          of this Act.

○