



# LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

## SUMMARY OF THE LOUISIANA CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE ACT (UPDATED THROUGH THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION)

### COMMITTEES

**Note:** This outline was produced by the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; 225-219-5600; [www.ethics.la.gov](http://www.ethics.la.gov). It is intended as a summary of reporting requirements. It does not purport to fully state the law. For further information, reporting forms, and schedules of reporting and filing dates for particular elections, please refer to R.S. 18:1481 et seq.

(Revised September 2025)

#### **I. Introduction to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA)**

##### **Purpose:**

1. Prevent the appearance of political corruption and promote transparency in elections
2. Ensure a knowledgeable electorate and promote confidence in elected officials
3. Provide public disclosure of the financing of election campaigns
4. Regulate certain campaign practices<sup>1</sup>

##### **Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure:**

1. Prepares and distributes forms for use by candidates, committees, and other persons
2. Makes reports available to the public through the Board's website at [ethics.la.gov](http://ethics.la.gov)
3. Enforces CFDA filing requirements and prohibitions
4. Issues advisory opinions interpreting the CFDA

#### **II. What is a Committee?**

“Committee” means any legal entity, including an association or political party, or other group of two or more persons, other than a husband and wife, which receives or anticipates receiving contributions and makes or anticipates making expenditures, and has the primary purpose of making contributions to or expenditures to or on behalf of any state or local elected official, candidate, campaign or other committee.<sup>2</sup>

**Exception:** An entity shall not be a committee if the entity makes expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or recalls using only the entity's general revenues and does not receive contributions for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates or recalls.

“Committee” includes any independent expenditure-only committee, leadership committee, political committee, principal campaign committee, or subsidiary committee thereof. It also includes joint fundraising committees.

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<sup>1</sup> R.S. 18:1482

<sup>2</sup> R.S. 18:1483(25)(a)

## Types of Committees

### 1. Principal Campaign Committee

Each candidate<sup>3</sup> may designate **only one** principal campaign committee.<sup>4</sup> The designation must be in writing and filed with the Board within 10 days of the designation.

A principal campaign committee of a candidate files reports in lieu of the candidate.<sup>5</sup>

A political committee may not be designated as the principal campaign committee of more than one candidate. No political committee that supports or has supported more than one candidate may be designated as a principal campaign committee.<sup>6</sup>

Any committee that designates subsidiary committees shall be a principal campaign committee. The designation must be filed at the time of the subsidiary designation.

### 2. Subsidiary Committee

A committee other than a principal campaign committee designated by a candidate or by a principal campaign committee to receive contributions or make expenditures on behalf of the candidate or principal campaign committee.<sup>7</sup>

Any committee, except a principal campaign committee, which is organized to support a single candidate shall be a subsidiary committee of the candidate or the principal campaign committee unless the candidate files a written statement disavowing the committee within 10 days of the committee's organization.<sup>8</sup>

A designation of a subsidiary committee must be made within 10 days of such designation.<sup>9</sup>

No political committee that supports or has supported more than one candidate may be designated as a subsidiary committee.<sup>10</sup>

### 3. Leadership Committee

A committee registered with the supervisory committee which is designated by an elected official and does not make expenditures in support of the candidacy of the elected official or in opposition to any opponent of the elected official and that makes expenditures only as authorized by R.S. 18:1505.2.<sup>11</sup>

### 4. Independent Expenditure-Only Committee

A committee registered with the supervisory committee which makes independent expenditures, makes no political contributions to any candidate for any elected office in this state or any of its subdivisions, or such candidate's principal campaign committee or a subsidiary committee

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3 R.S. 18:1483(3)  
4 R.S. 18:1483(19)  
5 R.S. 18:1491.3(A)  
6 R.S. 18:1491.3(F)  
7 R.S. 18:1483(22)  
8 R.S. 18:1491.3(C)  
9 R.S. 18:1491.3(E)  
10 R.S. 18:1491.3(F)  
11 R.S. 18:1483(?)

thereof, and makes no coordinated expenditures with a candidate or such candidate's principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee thereof.<sup>12</sup>

## 5. Political Committee

A committee organized for the primary purpose of making expenditures supporting or opposing one or more candidates, propositions, recalls, or political parties, which accepts contributions in the name of the political committee, or makes expenditures from political committee funds or in the names of the political committee, or makes a transfer of funds to or receives a transfer of funds from another committee, or makes loans in an aggregate amount in excess of **\$1,000** within any calendar year.<sup>13</sup>

A committee which supports or opposes one or more candidates, propositions, recalls of a public officer, or political parties, **and which accepts direct payments for personal services related to an election or a campaign** in the name of the political committee in an aggregate amount in excess of **\$1,000** within any calendar year.

**Exception:** An entity that holds a license or permit duly issued by the appropriate governmental entity to provide the personal services provided, regularly does business in the area state, and regularly has done business in the area state for at least 90 days prior to the date the personal services are provided and the personal services provided are the same as the personal services regularly provided by the business in the normal and usual scope of its usual business activities

Any state central committee, parish executive committee, and any other committee of any political party that receives contributions or makes expenditures in such amount during such period in an aggregate amount in excess of \$2,500 within any calendar year.

## 6. Joint Fundraising Committee

The participants in a Joint Fundraising Agreement may designate a political committee to serve as the joint fundraising representative. The joint fundraising committee shall report all contributions received and the distribution of proceeds as expenditures made to participants. A statement of organization must be filed with the Supervisory Committee within 10 days of the execution of the joint fundraising agreement.<sup>14</sup>

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12 R.S. 18:1483(10)

13 R.S. 18:1483(17)

14 R.S. 18:1491.9

## II. Registration Requirements

Each committee must **register** for each calendar year that it will have financial activity in excess of \$1,000 by filing a **statement of organization** between **January 1 and January 31**. A **Certificate of Registration** is issued to all properly registered committees.<sup>15</sup>

A committee that organizes after January 31 or discovers after January 31 that its financial activity for the year will exceed \$1,000 must file a statement of organization **within 10 days** of that date.

**Exception:** A committee organized within 10 days prior to an election must file a statement of organization **within 3 days** of its organization.

The **statement of organization** must be submitted on the form provided by the Supervisory Committee. The statement must contain the name and address of the committee as well as those of its officers and directors, the estimated membership of the committee, and the names and addresses of all banks or savings and loans in which the committee has deposited funds. The names, addresses, and relationships of any affiliated organizations or candidates must also be listed. The chairperson and treasurer of the committee must sign the statement.<sup>16</sup>

Any changes that occur to the information submitted on a statement of organization should be reported by filing an **amended** statement of organization within 10 days of the change. No additional filing fee is required for an amended statement of organization.<sup>17</sup>

**NOTE:** No committee shall receive contributions or loans, make expenditures, or transfer funds in excess of \$1,000 in any calendar year until it has filed the statement of organization. Violation of this provision shall subject the committee to penalties in R.S. 18:1505.5 and 1505.6.<sup>18</sup>

A \$100 filing fee must be submitted with each Statement of Organization. The fee must be paid with a committee check made payable to **“Campaign Finance”** or using an e-check online through: 1) the registration payment tab in LEADERS or 2) the online payment center under the Campaign Finance tab on our website.<sup>19</sup>

**Out-of-State Committee Rule:** An entity that (1) supports candidates in states other than Louisiana, (2) receives less than 50% of its receipts during a calendar year from Louisiana candidates or committees, and (3) expends less than 50% of its disbursements during a calendar year, but not more than \$50,000, to support or oppose Louisiana candidates is not considered a “committee” and is exempt from registering and reporting in Louisiana.<sup>20</sup>

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15 R.S. 18:1491.1(A)

16 R.S. 18:1491.1(B)

17 R.S. 18:1491.1 (C)

18 R.S. 18:1491.1 (D)

19 R.S. 18:1491.1(E)

20 R.S. 18:1483(?)

### III. Persons Required to File Disclosure Reports

A “candidate” is any person who seeks nomination or election to public office, except for federal offices or political party offices. An individual shall be deemed to seek nomination or election to such office if he:

1. Received a contribution or made an expenditure.
2. Qualified for election to public office.
3. Was selected as party nominee pursuant to R.S. 18:410.6.<sup>21</sup>

**Each candidate may designate a Principal Campaign Committee, which shall report, in lieu of the candidate, all information required to be reported by the candidate.<sup>22</sup>**

#### Who is Required to File CFDA Reports?

1. Each **Candidate** for a **Major**<sup>23</sup> office, which includes:
  - a. Each statewide elected office:  
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance
  - b. Public Service Commissioner, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeal Judge, BESE
  - c. District Court Judges elected parish-wide in Orleans;
  - d. Any other office with an election district containing a population in excess of 250,000.  
\*Includes offices elected parish-wide in East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany; District Attorneys in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts; District Court Judges in the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Districts;
2. Each Candidate for a **District**<sup>24</sup> office:
  - a. Office of a member of the Louisiana Legislature
  - b. All offices elected parish-wide (except in East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany)
  - c. All offices elected in more than one parish (unless the population exceeds 250,000)
  - d. All offices elected in a district with a population in excess of 35,000 (but less than 250,000),  
\*Includes offices elected citywide in the cities of Alexandria, Bossier City, Kenner, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, and Shreveport, and offices elected in East Baton Rouge that are not parish-wide.
  - e. District court judgeships (except those in Orleans Parish or in districts over 250,000); family court, juvenile, and city court judgeships; city court marshals and city court constables.
  - f. Offices elected in a city or parish election in a parish with a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more (Orleans Parish).
  - g. Offices to a board or governing authority which has within its jurisdiction a municipality with a population of 225,000 or more (East Baton Rouge Parish).

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21 R.S. 18:1483(3)

22 R.S. 1491.3(A)

23 R.S. 18:1483(13)

24 R.S. 18:1483(7)

3. Each Candidate for "**Any Other**" office (i.e., any office not considered a Major or District office) who makes **expenditures**<sup>25</sup> in excess of \$5,000; **or** receives **contributions**<sup>26</sup>, other than from the candidate's personal funds, totaling in excess of \$5,000<sup>27</sup>.
4. Each **Committee**<sup>28</sup> which knows or anticipates that it will receive contributions or loans from any source, make expenditures, or transfer funds during a calendar year in excess of \$1,000 must submit a Statement of Organization along with a \$100 filing fee and file reports accordingly.
5. Any **Person, including a committee**, who solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure in support of or opposition to a **proposition** or question submitted to the voters if the aggregate amount of contributions or expenditures equals or exceeds \$5,000.<sup>29</sup>
6. Any **Person, including a committee**, who solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure in support of or opposition to the **recall of a public officer**, if the aggregate amount of contributions or expenditures equals or exceeds \$5,000.<sup>30</sup>

**Note:** The use of public funds to urge a voter to vote for or against a candidate or proposition is prohibited. Public funds may be used to disseminate factual information relative to a proposition. (See R.S. 18:1465)

#### IV. Committee Officers (R.S. 18:1491.4)

Each committee must have a chairperson, who also serves as treasurer, unless a treasurer is appointed. One or more deputy treasurers may also be appointed. The names and addresses of each treasurer or deputy treasurer must be disclosed in the Statement of Organization.<sup>31</sup>

Contributions may be solicited for or on behalf of the committee by any person, provided that the contributions and information necessary to complete the committee's disclosure report are transmitted directly to the chairman, treasurer, or deputy treasurer of the committee.<sup>32</sup>

When an expenditure is made by a person other than the committee treasurer, the information about the expenditure should be transmitted directly to the treasurer, who is responsible for any errors or omissions in the records or reports of such expenditures.<sup>33</sup>

The committee chairperson and treasurer shall be responsible for providing and maintaining all records of the committee as are necessary to file the required disclosure reports.<sup>34</sup>

Violations of the CFDA by a committee can subject the committee chairperson and treasurer to civil penalties of up to \$10,000.<sup>35</sup>

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25 R.S. 18:1483(9)

26 R.S. 18:1483(6)

27 R.S. 18:1484 – effective 6/20/2025

28 R.S. 18:1483(17), (25) and 18:1491

29 R.S. 18:1486

30 R.S. 18:1486

31 R.S. 18:1491.4(A)

32 R.S. 18:1491.4(B)(1)

33 R.S. 18:1491.4(B)(2)

34 R.S. 18:1491.5(A)

35 R.S. 18:1505.2(J)(1)

## V. Recordkeeping and Reporting

Committee treasurers must maintain records of receipts and disbursements for six years.<sup>36</sup> The records kept by the treasurer shall be available for inspection or use by the Supervisory Committee in connection with any investigation pursuant to the CFDA.<sup>37</sup>

**Exception:** A committee which supports only one candidate must preserve records for two years after the final report which the candidate is required to file, including any supplemental reports required.<sup>38</sup>

The committee chairperson must designate one or more **banks, savings and loans, or money market funds** as a depository for committee funds. All receipts must be deposited into an account maintained at the depository. All expenditures shall be made from the account and shall be paid to a specific person and shall indicate the objects or services for which such check is drawn.<sup>39</sup>

**Petty Cash Exception:** A petty cash fund may be maintained. Expenditures may be made in cash from the fund and the fund shall, from time to time, be restored to its original amount. No expenditure in excess of \$200 may be made from the fund and no expenditure shall be made from the petty cash fund for any personal services, except tips for serving food and drink. A complete record shall be kept of all expenditures made from a petty cash fund and a receipt shall be kept in any case in which a receipt would be provided in the usual course of business. Petty cash expenditures must be itemized as all other expenditures on the disclosure forms.<sup>40</sup>

A committee is required to clearly indicate that its contribution to a candidate or a candidate's committee is from a committee either by a designation on the check or by a separate notification attached to the contribution.<sup>41</sup>

Records are required to be kept of every contribution, including the **sale of tickets** to testimonials or other fundraising events. The date, amount, and name and address of the contributor must be recorded and reported.<sup>42</sup>

**Exception:** Records are not required to be kept of the name and addresses of individual purchasers of paraphernalia and raffle tickets for \$50 or less. The total amount received and deposited from paraphernalia and raffle ticket sales must be reported. Paraphernalia sales are still contributions and successive single sales may not be used to avoid the recordkeeping requirements.<sup>43</sup>

**Exception:** Committees receiving over 10,000 contributions of \$50 or less in the aggregate in a calendar year by a payroll deduction or dues check-off system may only be required to list contributors once a year.<sup>44</sup>

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36 R.S. 18:1491.5(I)

37 R.S. 18:1491.5(J)

38 R.S. 18:1491.5(I)

39 R.S. 18:1491.4(D)(1)

40 R.S. 18:1491.4(E)

41 R.S. 18:1491.4(D)(3)

42 R.S. 18:1491.5(B)(1)

43 R.S. 18:1491.5(B)(2)

44 R.S. 18:1491.7(B)(4)(b)

**Cash contributions** are subject to a limit of \$200 per person during the calendar year. The cash contributor must be given a receipt containing name, address, and signature of contributor, as well as date and amount of the contribution.<sup>45</sup>

Records of every **expenditure** shall be maintained and recorded, and must include the name and address of the person or firm from whom goods or services were purchased or contracted, the date, the amount or value, and the purpose of the expenditure, a description of the goods or services purchased, and a description and valuation of any in-kind expenditures.<sup>46</sup>

Expenditures made by a public relations firm, an advertising agency, or an agent for the committee shall be expenditures of the committee and must be reported. Each firm, agency, or agent shall timely provide the necessary information to the committee; failure to do so could subject the firm to penalties pursuant to the CFDA.<sup>47</sup>

Expenditures made to a public relations firm, an advertising agency, or an agent for the committee shall be reported as expenditures made to the payee if the expenditure is \$5,000 or more.<sup>48</sup>

## **VI. Report Filing Requirements**

Reports are filed when received physically by hand delivery, postmarked or receipted on a return receipt request if sent by United States Mail, received electronically, or when deposited for delivery with a commercial delivery service as indicated on a receipt.<sup>49</sup>

**Each principal campaign committee of a candidate for major or district office is required to electronically file the disclosure reports.**<sup>50</sup>

**Committees that receive contributions or loans in excess of \$50,000 or make expenditures in excess of \$50,000 in a calendar year, other than a political committee of a recognized political party, must electronically file disclosure reports.**<sup>51</sup>

The L.E.A.D.E.R.S. software used for electronic filing can be downloaded at [www.ethics.la.gov](http://www.ethics.la.gov). To begin filing electronically, a password and identification number must be submitted at least five business days prior to a reporting deadline.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** A political committee or independent only expenditure committee have the option of filing reports on a monthly basis, which are due no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following a month in which the committee accepts a contribution or receipt or makes an expenditure or disbursement. The Committee Notice of Monthly Filing must be submitted to this office at least 45 days prior to the due date for the next required report. The first monthly report is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month in which the notification is delivered.<sup>52</sup>

Leadership Committees are required to file monthly reports no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.<sup>53</sup>

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45 R.S. 18:1505.2(C)

46 R.S. 18:1491.5(B)(3)

47 R.S. 18:1491.5(H)

48 R.S. 18:1491.7(C)

49 R.S. 18:1485(A)

50 R.S. 18:1485(C)

51 R.S. 18:1485(E)

52 R.S. 18:1491.6(I)(1)

53 R.S. 18:1491.6(J)

## VII. Types of Reports

Committees (who do not file monthly reports) file reports according to the **CANDIDATE’S REPORTING AND FILING SCHEDULE** for the specific election in which they are participating. Committees begin filing reports according to the date they make contributions or expenditures in support of or opposition to a candidate, proposition, recall of a public officer, or political party.

A specific reporting schedule is available for each election. See Candidate’s Filing Schedule at [Louisiana Ethics Administration Program: Campaign Finance Portal](#) for filing deadline dates for each election.

Committees electing to file reports on the same schedule as the candidates they support or oppose must file reports as follows:

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are filed for each committee no later than February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year and are complete as of the preceding December 31<sup>st</sup>.<sup>54</sup>

**Exception:** An annual report is not due (1) if another required report was filed any time after the preceding December 10 and prior to February 15, or (2) if the committee has received no contributions, made no expenditures, and received or made no loans during the reporting period.<sup>55</sup>

**180TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (180-P):** Filed **only** by committees supporting or opposing **major** office candidates.<sup>56</sup>

**90TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (90-P):** Filed **only** by committees supporting or opposing **major** office candidates.<sup>57</sup>

**Exceptions:** Committees supporting or opposing candidates for the party-primary Offices of Public Service Commission, Supreme Court Justice, and BESE do **NOT** file 180-P or 90-P reports. See Party Primary Filing Schedule for complete filing requirements for these offices.

**30TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (30-P):** Filed by **ALL** committees.<sup>58</sup>

**10TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (10-P):** Filed by **ALL** committees.<sup>59</sup>

**10TH DAY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION (10-G):** Filed by **ALL** committees.<sup>60</sup>

\*Last report required for committees not participating in general election.

**40TH DAY AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION (40-G):** Filed only by committees participating in the general election.<sup>61</sup>

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54 R.S. 18:1491.6(E)

55 R.S. 18L1491.6(E)(1) & (3)

56 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(1)

57 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(2)

58 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(3)

59 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(4)

60 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(5)

61 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(6)

## **SPECIAL REPORTS:**

Special Reports must be filed within 2 business days of the transaction if the following transactions are made during the 20-day period immediately preceding an election:

1. A contribution, loan, or transfer of funds is received and accepted during the 20-day period in excess of \$2,000 by committees participating in the election of a candidate for major office, or \$1,000 for district office candidates, or \$500 for any other office candidates.

**OR**

2. An expenditure in excess of \$500 is made to a candidate, committee, or other person required to file disclosure reports who makes endorsements.<sup>62</sup>

**Exception:** Political committees and independent-expenditure only committees electing to file monthly reports are **NOT** required to file Special Reports for receipts, however, monthly filers must file Special Reports if they make an expenditure in excess of \$500 to a person required to file disclosure reports who makes endorsements.<sup>63</sup>

## **SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS:**

Required to be filed annually by February 28th, complete through the preceding December 31, if the last report of a committee for an election shows outstanding debts or loans or surplus funds.<sup>64</sup>

**Exception:** A supplemental report need not be filed if the committee is dissolved and shows outstanding debts and loans totaling less than \$5,000.<sup>65</sup>

**Exception to the Exception:** If a committee is dissolved and its deficit is equal to or greater than \$5,000, the committee shall file supplemental reports annually no later than Feb. 28th for five years or until a report shows no loan or deficit. If, after five years, a committee with a deficit receives any contribution or a repayment occurs on an outstanding debt or loan, the committee shall file a supplemental report by the following February 28th.<sup>66</sup>

## **WITHDRAWN AND UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES:**

The final report of a committee that supports or opposes only one candidate who either withdraws or is unopposed is the next report due after the date that the candidate officially withdraws from the election, through the Secretary of State, or becomes unopposed.<sup>67</sup>

## **PROPOSITION ELECTIONS:**

Any person, including a committee, who receives contributions or makes expenditures in an aggregate amount of \$5,000 or more in support of or in opposition to a proposition or question submitted to the voters. Reports are required 30 days prior to the election, 10 days prior to the election, and 40 days after the election. Special reports are required for any contribution or expenditure in excess of \$5,000 during the 20-day period immediately preceding the election.<sup>68</sup>

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62 R.S. 18:1491.6(C)(2)

63 R.S. 18:1491.6(I)

64 R.S. 18:1491.6(D)

65 R.S. 18:1491.6(D)(3)

66 R.S. 18:1491.6(D)(3)

67 R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(7)

68 R.S. 18:1486(A)(1) & (C)(1)

**RECALL ELECTIONS:**

Any person, including a committee, who receives contributions or makes expenditures in an aggregate amount of \$5,000 in support of or in opposition to the recall of a public officer. A statement of organization is required within 3 days of the filing of the recall petition. Reports are due 45 days, 135 days, and 200 days after the filing of the recall petition. If the recall effort is successful, the rules for proposition elections then apply.<sup>69</sup>

**AFFIDAVITS IN LIEU OF REPORTS:**

Any committee that did not receive a contribution in excess of \$500 and that did not make expenditures totaling in excess of \$10,000 may file an affidavit in lieu of each report required above.

A separate affidavit is required for each report. Once a committee exceeds either of the threshold amounts, it may not return to filing affidavits for that election.<sup>70</sup>

## VIII. Allowed Uses of Contributions (R.S. 18:1505.2)

Contributions received by a committee may be expended on any lawful purpose related to any of the following:

1. Supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters.
2. Supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer.
3. Contributions to a gubernatorial transition and inauguration.
4. Contributions to an independent expenditure only committee.
5. Donations of a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization.
6. Lobbying
7. Social and Issue advocacy.
8. Administrative costs or operating expenses, including legal services, accounting services, and fundraising.<sup>71</sup>

Each type of committee has further allowed uses of contributions.

### **Principal Campaign Committees and Subsidiary Committees**

In addition to the above uses, principal campaign committees and any subsidiary committee may spend contributions on:

1. Supporting or nominating the candidate for election to a public office.
2. Supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a person to public office.
3. Contributions to another committee.
4. The holding of public office or party position.
5. The payment of fines, fees, or penalties assessed for a violation of the CFDA.<sup>72</sup>

**NOTE:** Contributions received by a principal campaign committee or a subsidiary committee shall not be used for any personal use of the candidate or a member of his immediate family.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> R.S. 18:1486(A)(2) & (C)(2)

<sup>70</sup> R.S. 18:1491.8

<sup>71</sup> R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(a)

<sup>72</sup> R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(b)(i)

<sup>73</sup> R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(b)(ii)

Excess campaign contributions received by a principal campaign committee may be maintained in a segregated fund for use in future political campaigns, activity related to preparing for future candidacy to elected office, or for any lawful purpose provided above.<sup>74</sup>

### **Leadership Committees**

In addition to the above uses, leadership committees may spend contributions on:

1. Holding of the elected official's public office or party position.
2. Contribution to another candidate or a principal campaign committee.
3. Contributions to another elected official's leadership committee.
4. The payment of fines, fees, or penalties assessed for a violation of the CFDA.

**NOTE:** Contributions received by a leadership committee shall not be used for any personal use of the elected official or his immediate family members, or for making expenditures in support of the elected official's campaign, to oppose the recall of the elected official, or to oppose an opponent of the elected official.<sup>75</sup>

### **Political Committees**

In addition to the above uses, political committees may spend contributions on:

1. Supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of any person to public office.
2. Contributions to any candidate's principal campaign committee, any other political committee, or any leadership committee.<sup>76</sup>

**NOTE:** Contributions received by a political committee shall not be used for any personal use of any candidate, elected officials, or his immediate family, or for any coordinated expenditures with a candidate or a candidate's principal campaign committee.<sup>77</sup>

### **Independent Expenditure Only Committees**

In addition to the above uses, an independent expenditure only committee may spend contributions on:

1. Supporting opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of any person to public office.
2. Contributions to any leadership committee.<sup>78</sup>

**NOTE:** Contributions received by an independent expenditure only committee shall not be used for any personal use of any candidate or elected official, or member of his immediate family, contributions to any candidate or a candidate's principal campaign committee or a subsidiary committee thereof, or coordinated expenditures with any candidate or a candidate's principal campaign committee.<sup>79</sup>

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74 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(a)(iii)

75 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(c)(i)

76 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(d)(i)

77 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(d)(ii)

78 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(e)(i)

79 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(e)(ii)

## IX. Prohibited Practices (R.S. 18:1505.2)

1. The following actions result in a violation of the CFDA:
  - a. Failure to File Disclosure Reports
  - b. Failure to Timely File Disclosure Reports
  - c. Failure to Accurately Report Information in a Disclosure Report.
  - d. Failure to File a Statement of Organization.<sup>80</sup>

The **failure to file**, **failure to timely file**, or the **failure to accurately report** information in a required report results in automatic penalties assessed against the committee chairperson and treasurer in the following amounts:<sup>81</sup>

**Primary Campaign Committees** and **Subsidiary Committees** are assessed penalties at the same rate as the candidate, depending on the level of office sought:

Major: \$100 per day/\$2,500 maximum<sup>82</sup>

District: \$60 per day/\$1,000 maximum<sup>83</sup>

Any Other: \$40 per day/\$500 maximum<sup>84</sup>

**Political Committees** or **Independent Expenditure Only Committees** who support or oppose a candidate are assessed penalties of \$200 per day/\$3,000 maximum.<sup>85</sup>

**Political Committees** or **Independent Expenditure Only Committees** who only support or oppose a proposition, question submitted to the voters, or a recall are assessed penalties of \$40 per day/\$1,000 maximum.<sup>86</sup>

**NOTE:** A committee chairperson and treasurer may be assessed additional penalties for a “willful” and “knowing” violation of the CFDA.<sup>87</sup>

2. No principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee shall make an expenditure from contributions for any purposes if the candidate owes a fine, fee, or penalty pursuant to the CFDA.<sup>88</sup>
3. Making contributions or loans through or in the **name of another**.<sup>89</sup>
4. Using funds from an **anonymous** source. Anonymous contributions must be transmitted to the State.<sup>90</sup>
5. Making or receiving **cash** contributions in excess of \$200 in a calendar year from a single source. Any cash contribution must be evidenced by a receipt containing the name, address, and signature or mark of the contributor.<sup>91</sup>
6. Making or receiving payments, including reimbursements of costs, for the **transportation** of any voter to a polling place or for absentee voting, unless the payment is to a licensed bus, taxi, or

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80 R.S. 18:1505.1

81 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(1)

82 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(i)

83 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(ii)

84 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(iii)

85 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(v)

86 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(iv)

87 R.S. 18:1505.4(B)

88 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(3)

89 R.S. 18:1505.2(A)

90 R.S. 18:1505.2(B)

91 R.S. 18:1505.2(C)

transportation service. Medical transportation services do not qualify to receive payments for transporting voters.<sup>92</sup>

7. Making expenditures in excess of \$200 from a petty cash fund or making cash payments for personal services, except for tips for serving food or drink.<sup>93</sup>
8. Contributions or expenditures made by a **corporation**, labor organization, or trade, business, or professional association unless specifically authorized by either (1) a vote of the board of directors or executive board, or (2) any person whom the board has specifically empowered to authorize such contributions or expenditures, or (3) a vote of the membership of the labor organization. Cash contributions in any amount by a corporation, labor organization, or trade, business or professional organization are prohibited.<sup>94</sup>
9. Financial activity over \$1,000 in a calendar year by a committee that has failed to file a statement of organization and contributions by a candidate to any political committee that should have filed a statement of organization but failed to do so.<sup>95</sup>
10. Contributions cannot be used to pay for fines or penalties assessed pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics.<sup>96</sup>
11. Contributions may not be used to purchase immovable property or a motor vehicle.<sup>97</sup>
12. No person shall coerce or attempt to coerce another person to give or withhold a contribution, or directly or indirectly affect an individual's employment based on a contribution or the failure to make a contribution.<sup>98</sup>
13. No principal campaign committee, subsidiary committee, or leadership committee may pay the elected official's immediate family member for services provided to the candidate's campaign, unless it is to a business in which an immediate family member has any ownership interest, and provided that all of the following apply:
  - (1) The business is a bona fide business that has been doing business regularly in the state for at least 12 months, providing goods/services related to the payment/expenditure, and, at the time payment/expenditure is made, and the business either:
    - (a) has been registered and in good standing with the secretary of state for at least 12 months and provides goods or services related to the payment or expenditure, or
    - (b) held an occupational license for at least 12 months that was duly issued by the appropriate local governmental subdivision;
  - (2) the payment or expenditure is made solely for campaign purposes; and,
  - (3) the payment or expenditure is made through an arm's length transaction in which the value of the goods or services furnished is commensurate with the consideration provided. An

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92 R.S. 18:1531

93 R.S. 18:1505.2(E)

94 R.S. 18:1505.2(F)

95 R.S. 18:1505.2(G)

96 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(4)

97 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(6)

98 R.S. 18:1505.2(D)

“immediate family member” is a candidate’s children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his spouse, and the parents of his spouse.<sup>99</sup>

14. Persons substantially interested in the **gaming industry** are prohibited from making contributions and loans to candidates and committees that support or oppose candidates.<sup>100</sup> Any contribution received in violation of this prohibition shall be turned over by the candidate to the state within 10 days of receipt. The contributor is subject to civil penalties up to \$10,000, criminal penalties, and forfeiture of any gaming license. For a list of prohibited contributors, see R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

### VIII. Contribution Limits (R.S. 18:1505.2(H) & (K))

Contributions, in-kind contributions, loans, endorsements or guarantees on loans, and transfers of funds are all counted towards the contribution limits.

	To a major office candidate or candidate committee per election <sup>1</sup>	To a district office candidate or candidate committee per election <sup>1</sup>	To an any other office candidate or candidate committee per election <sup>1</sup>	To a committee between 1/1/23 and 12/31/26
An individual may give <sup>2</sup>	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$100,000/calendar year \$250,000/four-year period
A Family Member of Candidate may give	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$100,000/calendar year \$250,000/four-year period
A Legal Entity may give <sup>3</sup>	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$100,000/calendar year \$250,000/four-year period
Committees may give	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$12,000/6,000/2,000 <sup>5</sup> *Leadership committees may receive \$25,000/calendar year <sup>43</sup>
Big Committee <sup>4</sup> may give	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$24,000/12,000/4,000 <sup>5</sup> *Leadership committees may receive \$25,000/calendar year <sup>101</sup>
Democratic or Republican Party or committees may give	no limits	no limits	no limits	no limits

<sup>1</sup> The open or party-primary, second party-primary, general, and tie-breaker elections are each considered separate elections.

<sup>2</sup> A husband and wife may each make contributions to the same candidate up to the limit. However, separate checks should be used. If a single check is signed by one spouse, the other must provide an affidavit as to their intent to share in the contribution.

<sup>3</sup> Includes legal entities owned wholly or partially by candidates, except Internal Revenue Code Subchapter S corporations and limited liability companies wholly owned by the candidate. Parent corporations and their subsidiaries are subject to a single limit. A corporation is a parent if it owns 50% of another corporation.

<sup>4</sup> A committee with over 250 members who contributed over \$50 to the committee during the preceding calendar year and has been certified by the Ethics Administration as meeting that membership requirement.

<sup>5</sup> The applicable limit is determined by the level of office sought by the candidates supported/opposed by the recipient committee.

99 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(5)

100 R.S. 18:1505.2(L)

101 R.S. 18:1505.2(H)(2)(h)

### Exceptions to the Contribution Limits:

1. Loans to the political committee (without endorsements or guarantors) from state banks, federally chartered depository institutions, depository institutions with insured accounts, licensed lenders, or insurance companies do not count towards the limits.
2. An independent-expenditure only committee may receive unlimited contributions from any person not otherwise prohibited from making a contribution pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30121 or La. R.S. 18:1481, et seq.
3. **BIG COMMITTEE:** A-committee **with over 250 members** who contributed **at least \$50** to the committee during the preceding calendar year may complete the certification of membership on the statement of organization form. A committee that meets this certification may make greater contributions to candidates.

### **VIII. Advisory Opinions and Complaints**

Any person requiring clarification of the CFDA's application to any activity that they plan to undertake may request an advisory opinion from the Board. The requesting party must have a demonstrable interest in the application of the CFDA and must include his name, address, and signature on the request. The Board will not issue advisory opinions as to past conduct.

Complaints regarding violations of the CFDA must be received in writing, shall be made upon personal knowledge or upon information in belief, and shall contain the name of the complainant, the identity of the person alleged to have violated the CFDA, and a clear recitation of facts describing the violation pursuant to R.S. 18:1511.4(A).

For instructions on requesting an advisory opinion or filing a complaint, see [ethics.la.gov](http://ethics.la.gov).