



**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
BOARD OF ETHICS**

**JUNE 16, 2015**

**ADVISORY ALERT – CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

**PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS**

The failure to file a required campaign finance report with the Board of Ethics is a violation of the City's Campaign Finance Law and is subject to a civil penalty of \$250 per day for each day the report is not filed with a maximum penalty of \$2,000 for the first thirty days the report remains unfiled, plus \$1,000 for each additional thirty day period the report remains unfiled.

The Cycle 3 (post-primary) campaign finance report is due on **June 18, 2015**. A notice explaining the reporting requirements is attached to this alert.

**Board enforcement staff will pursue enforcement and penalties for the failure to timely file a Cycle 3 (post-primary) report.**

**Anyone who has technical difficulties or any other problem with filing should contact the Board staff before a report is due.**

If you have questions about this Alert, please contact the Board staff at 215-686-9450.

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**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
BOARD OF ETHICS**

**NOTICE: UPCOMING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING DEADLINE**

**2015 CYCLE 3 (POST-PRIMARY) CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS  
FILING DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015**

**Required for:**

**1. City candidates in the May 2015 primary election and the authorized political committees of such candidates.** Philadelphia City elective office is the following offices: Mayor, District Attorney, City Controller, Sheriff, City Commissioner, or City Council. If a candidate received or expended less than \$250 or incurred liabilities of less than \$250, he or she may file a campaign finance statement with the Board instead of a full report.

**Example:** Candidate A ran for City office in the primary election and authorized Friends of A as her candidate political committee. Candidate A did not personally receive or expend any money on behalf of her candidacy.

Friends of A must electronically file a cycle 3 campaign finance report with the Board.

Candidate A must electronically file a cycle 3 campaign finance statement with the Board.

**2. Political Committees that make expenditures or incur debt to influence a Philadelphia City election.** An expenditure to influence a City election includes a contribution a political committee makes to a candidate for Philadelphia City elective office.

**Example A:** PAC A is a political committee registered with the Department of State. The committee makes a contribution of \$500 to a candidate for City office.

PAC A must electronically file a cycle 3 campaign finance report with the Board.

**Example B:** PAC B is a political committee registered with the Department of State. On May 10, 2015, the committee spends \$5,000 on radio ads promoting a candidate for City office.

PAC B must electronically file a cycle 3 campaign finance report with the Board.

**3. Business entities such as not-for-profit organizations that make expenditures or incur debt to influence a Philadelphia City election.** A business entity, such as a not-for-profit organization, that makes an expenditure of \$250 or more to influence a City election should electronically file a campaign finance report with the Board of Ethics that discloses not just expenditures to influence the City election but also any contributions received during the reporting period (May 5, 2015 through June 8, 2015). In this context, a “contribution” is any money given to the business entity/not-for-profit organization for the purpose of influencing the election.

**Example:** NP Inc. is a not-for-profit organization. On May 15, 2015, the committee spends \$5,000 on radio ads promoting a candidate for City office.

NP Inc. must electronically file a cycle 3 campaign finance report with the Board.

**4. Individuals.** Any individual who, in the time period of May 5, 2015 through June 8, 2015, has made an **independent expenditure** of \$100 or more that advocates the election or defeat of a candidate for City elective office, must electronically file an independent expenditure report with the Board of Ethics. A contribution or an in-kind contribution to a candidate is **not** an independent expenditure.

**Please note:**

Filing a campaign finance report with the Board of Ethics does not satisfy the filing requirements imposed by the Pennsylvania Election Code, such as the requirement to file reports with the City Commissioners or the Department of State. If you have questions about the Pa. Election Code or the requirement to file campaign finance reports with the City Commissioners, please contact **Tim Dowling** at **215-686-3469**. If you have questions about filing with the Department of State, please call **717-787-1512**.