

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1281

5 By: Representative McAlindon
6 By: Senator C. Penzo
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE;
10 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
11 AND EXPENDITURES; TO AMEND REPORTING FOR A CANDIDATE
12 FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWNSHIP, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE;
13 TO AMEND REPORTING FOR A CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY OFFICE;
14 TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED
15 FROM INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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19 TO AMEND REPORTING FOR A CANDIDATE FOR
20 CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND FOR COUNTY
21 OFFICE; AND TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE
22 ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED FROM
23 INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996.
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(a), concerning required reporting
28 of contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal
29 office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 (a) Reports required. ~~Except as provided in subsection (d) of this~~
32 ~~section, each~~ Each candidate for school district, township, or municipal
33 office, or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall:

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



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

3 ~~(2) (1) No later than seven (7) sixty (60) days prior to any~~
4 ~~preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, school~~
5 ~~election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the~~
6 ~~ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and~~
7 ~~expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any,~~
8 ~~and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff~~
9 ~~election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures~~
10 ~~made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election~~
11 ~~from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election~~
12 ~~date of the filing of the report;~~

13 (2) No later than twenty (20) days prior to any preferential
14 primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or
15 special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a
16 preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made
17 between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the date of
18 the filing of the report;

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

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

33 ~~(5) (4)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the~~
34 ~~month in which the candidate has withdrawn, file a final report of all~~
35 ~~contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on~~
36 ~~reports previously required to be filed.~~

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

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

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7 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(d), concerning reports not required
8 for candidates for a county office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of
9 1996, is repealed.

10 ~~(d) Reports Not Required.~~

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

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

21
22 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a), concerning required reporting
23 of contributions for candidates for a county office and resulting from
24 Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

33 ~~(2) (1)~~ (1) No later than ~~seven (7)~~ sixty (60) days prior to any
34 preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special
35 election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a
36 preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made

1 between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the ~~period ten~~
 2 ~~(10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall~~
 3 ~~cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of~~
 4 ~~time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose~~
 5 ~~and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election~~ date of the filing of the
 6 report;

7 (2) No later than twenty (20) days prior to any preferential
 8 primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in
 9 which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report
 10 of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period
 11 covered by the previous report, if any, and the date of the filing of the
 12 report;

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

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

26 ~~(5)~~ (4)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the
 27 month in which the candidate has withdrawn, a final report of all
 28 contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on
 29 reports previously required to be filed.

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

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

35
 36 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(d), concerning reports not required

1 for contributions of candidates for a county office and resulting from
2 Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is repealed.

3 ~~(d) Reports Not Required.~~

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

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

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