



# **2026 CLEAN ELECTIONS WORKSHOP**

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# Workshop Overview

- Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Act
- Arizona Election Basics
- \$5 Qualifying Contributions
- Clean Elections Funding: Applying and Qualifying
- Campaign Finance: Reporting Requirements, Contributions, Expenditures, and Usage of Funds
- Voter Education: Candidate Statement Pamphlets, Debates, and Commission Tools

ARIZONA  
***Citizens Clean Elections Act***

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# What is the Citizens Clean Elections Act?

- In 1998, the people of Arizona passed the Citizens Clean Elections Act.
- The Act promotes participation in democracy and fights corruption in politics.
- The Act established a campaign finance system which includes:
  - Voter education,
  - Campaign finance enforcement, and
  - Clean Elections funding for eligible state candidates

## Clean Elections' Purpose

- To restore citizen participation and confidence in our political system, improve the integrity of Arizona State government and promote freedom of speech under the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions.

# Where does Clean Elections Funding come from?

- The Clean Elections Commission does not receive appropriations from the legislature.
  - No tax dollars from the general fund.
  - The Clean Elections Commission and candidate funding is NOT taxpayer monies.
- Independent funding created by voters.
  - \$5 contributions, collected by Participating Candidates in order to qualify for funding.
  - A 10% surcharge assessed on civil penalties and criminal fines throughout the state.
  - Commission penalties assessed through enforcement actions.
  - Small voluntary donations (rare).

# ARIZONA ELECTIONS

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*The Basics*

# Recognized Parties and Independents

- Currently recognized in Arizona:
  - Democratic
  - Libertarian
  - Republican
  - No Labels
  - Green Party
- Parties must qualify for ballot recognition via petition.
- Maintaining recognition is dependent upon the number of registered voters or the number of votes cast at the last general election for the office of governor.
- Independent - Any registered voter that is not a member of a recognized party.
  - Independent candidates may qualify for the General Election ballot under a §16-341 designation.
  - Independent candidates do not appear on the Primary Election ballot.

# Statement of Organization and Statement of Interest

- Candidates are required to register as a committee by filing a Statement of Organization with the Secretary of State's Office
  - Filed electronically via the campaign finance reporting system.
  - Must file within **10** days of receiving contributions or made expenditures of \$1,300 - in any combination.
- The Commission recommends individuals considering participation in the clean elections program file a Statement of Organization before making any expenditures or accepting any contributions.
- Potential candidates are also required to file a Statement of Interest with the Secretary of State's Office.



# Becoming a Participating Candidate

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
AS A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §§16-947 and 948 and AAC R2-20-104 (D)

COMMITTEE ID NUMBER: **200810011**

NAME OF CANDIDATE: **JOE CANDIDATE**

DATE: **5/16/2008**

OFFICE SOUGHT: **STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT NO. 30**

PARTY AFFILIATION: **REPUBLICAN**

ELECTION CYCLE: **2008**

CANDIDATE'S ADDRESS: **123 USA STREET**

CITY: **PHOENIX**

STATE: **AZ**

ZIP: **85000**

CANDIDATE'S TELEPHONE #: **(802) 555-0000**

CANDIDATE'S FAX #: **(802) 555-0001**

CANDIDATE'S EMAIL ADDRESS: **ELECTCANDIDATE@AZCLEANELECTIONS.GOV**

NAME OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE: **JOE CANDIDATE**

COMMITTEE ADDRESS: **123 USA STREET**

CITY: **YOUR CITY**

STATE: **AZ**

ZIP: **85000**

COMMITTEE MAILING ADDRESS (if different from above): **123 USA STREET**

CITY: **YOUR CITY**

STATE: **AZ**

ZIP: **85000**

COMMITTEE TELEPHONE #: **(802) 555-0000**

COMMITTEE FAX #: **(802) 555-0001**

COMMITTEE EMAIL ADDRESS: **ELECTCANDIDATE@AZCLEANELECTIONS.GOV**

NAME OF DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL WITH AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW FUNDS (IF APPLICABLE) (A.R.S. §16-948):

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL'S ADDRESS: **123 USA STREET**

CITY: **YOUR CITY**

STATE: **AZ**

ZIP: **85000**

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL'S TELEPHONE #: **(802) 555-0000**

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL'S FAX #: **(802) 555-0001**

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL'S EMAIL: **ELECTCANDIDATE@AZCLEANELECTIONS.GOV**

LIST THE NAME OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE CANDIDATE AND THE DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL WILL CONDUCT ALL FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (Do not list account numbers). (A.R.S. §16-948(A))

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION: **BANK OF AMERICA**

DESIGNATED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT (if applicable) (A.R.S. §16-948(B)): I hereby designate \_\_\_\_\_ as my duly authorized Designated Individual, with the authority to withdraw funds and make expenditures from my campaign account on my behalf.

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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- File Application for Certification as a Participating Candidate:
  - Filed with Secretary of State's Office.
  - Reviewed by Commission Staff.
  - Deadline is July 28, 2026
- If Statement of Organization is filed the same day as Application for Certification, no campaign finance report is necessary.
- If filed separately, a campaign finance report detailing all financial activity is required.
- Candidates are notified within 7 calendar days if they are certified.

# Required Candidate Filings for Running for Office

- Any person desiring to become a statewide or legislative candidate and to have the person's name printed on the official ballot shall file with the Secretary of State's Office:
  - Nomination Petitions
  - Nomination Paper
  - Financial Disclosure Statement
    - Filed electronically by e-mail to [financial.disclosure@azsos.gov](mailto:financial.disclosure@azsos.gov)
    - No longer needs to be notarized.
  - Candidate Filing Period: March 7, 2026 through April 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

# Write-In Candidates

- A write-in candidate must file all the documents that are required for other candidates (except nomination petitions), not later than **40** days prior to the Primary or General Election.
- Last Day to File as a Write-In Candidate Primary Election: June 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Last Day to File as a Write-In Candidate General Election: Sept. 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Only candidates who file complete, timely documents will:
  - Be considered “official write-in candidates,”
  - Have their names posted in the polling places and their votes counted,
  - Not be listed on the ballot or on an insert in an early ballot envelope.

## *\$5 Qualifying Contributions*

# Qualifying Period

**August 1, 2025 – July 28, 2026**

- During the qualifying period candidates can:
  - Collect \$5 qualifying contributions
  - Submit \$5 qualifying contributions to the Secretary of State's Office to receive Clean Elections funding
  - Raise and Spend Limited Contributions:
    - Early Individual Contributions
    - Personal & Family Contributions
- Ends one week before the 2026 Primary Election.

# Qualifying Contributions Required

	Governor	Secretary of State	Attorney General	Treasurer	Supt. of Public Instruction	Corporation Commission	Mine Inspector	Legislature
Minimum	4000	2500	2500	1500	1500	1500	500	200
Recommend 20% More**	4800	3000	3000	1800	1800	1800	600	240

\*\*Commission recommends collecting at least 20% more than required.

- The last day to collect contributions
  - July 28, 2026
- The last day to submit contributions:
  - August 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

# \$5 Qualifying Contributions

- \$5 exactly, cash or check made payable to the candidate's campaign committee;
- Contributors:
  - Registered voters in the district;
    - May register person to vote, collect \$5 same day;
  - From any party affiliation;
  - Nothing of value can be exchanged for a contribution;
  - Married couples:
    - May give \$10;
    - Both must sign check;
    - Submit separate forms;
- Solicited or Unsolicited:
  - Solicitor must be eligible to register to vote;
  - Cannot be compensated to collect \$5.

# \$5 Qualifying Contribution Forms



CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
**QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION FORM**  
 FORMULARIO DE CONTRIBUIDOR AL FONDO DE  
 CIUDADANOS PARA ELECCIONES LIMPIAS

## \$5 Qualifying Contribution

For Office Use Only:  
 Para Uso de Oficina  
 Reg. ID \_\_\_\_\_  
 District \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CANDIDATE'S NAME</b> (Please Print): <u>Mike Becker</u> <i>Nombre del Candidato (Favor de escribir con letra de imprenta)</i>			
<b>OFFICE SOUGHT</b> (Include District for Legislative Office): <u>AZ State Senate LD 12</u> <i>Cargo Buscado (Incluya el Distrito para un Cargo)</i>			
<b>CONTRIBUTOR'S NAME</b> (Please Print): <u>Sherlock Watson</u> <i>Nombre del Contribuidor (Favor de escribir con letra de imprenta)</i>			
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION ADDRESS</b> <i>Dirección de registro del votante</i>		<b>LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT:</b> <u>12</u> <i>Distrito Legislativo</i>	
<b>STREET</b> <u>221 A Butcher St</u> <i>Calle</i>	<b>CITY</b> <u>Phoenix</u> <i>Ciudad</i>	<b>ZIP</b> <u>85044</u> <i>Código Postal</i>	<b>COUNTY</b> <u>Maricopa</u> <i>Condado</i>
<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b> <u>guy@guy.com</u> <i>Dirección de Correo Electrónico</i>			
<b>SIGNATURE OF CONTRIBUTOR</b> <i>Firma del Contribuidor</i>		<b>DATE OF CONTRIBUTION</b> <i>Fecha de la Contribución</i>	
<b>SOLICITOR'S NAME</b> (Please Print): <u>Steve Steves</u> <i>Nombre del Solicitante (Favor de escribir con letra de imprenta)</i>			
<b>STREET</b> <u>33221 S North St</u> <i>Calle</i>	<b>CITY</b> <u>Phoenix</u> <i>Ciudad</i>	<b>ZIP</b> <u>85044</u> <i>Código Postal</i>	<b>COUNTY</b> <u>Maricopa</u> <i>Condado</i>
I, the undersigned, upon my oath and under penalty of perjury, certify that I received a \$5.00 contribution from the above contributor, who is to the best of my information and knowledge, a qualified elector of this state. <i>Yo, el suscrito, bajo juramento y bajo pena de perjurio, certifico que recibí una contribución de \$5.00 del donante de arriba, quien es, a mi leal saber y entender, un elector calificado de este estado.</i>			
<b>SIGNATURE OF SOLICITOR:</b> <u>[Signature]</u> <i>Firma del Solicitante</i>			
"I am exploring a candidacy for elected office. Your contribution is a measure of grassroots support for my potential candidacy. If I formally declare as a candidate, I will use your contribution for my campaign. I may use the contribution as a qualifying contribution if I opt to participate in the clean elections campaign finance system. If I choose not to run for office, this contribution will be returned to the contributor or remitted to the fund." <i>"Estoy explorando una candidatura para un puesto electoral. Su contribución es una medida de apoyo local a mi candidatura potencial. Si declaro mi candidatura formalmente, usaré su contribución para mi campaña. Puedo usar la contribución como una contribución válida si decido participar en el sistema de finanzas de la campaña de elecciones limpias. Si decido no participar en la contienda por el puesto, esta contribución será devuelta al/a la contribuyente o remitida al fondo."</i>			

Rev. 12/09

File with the Office of the Secretary of State  
 Presente a la Oficina del Secretario de Estado

- The Commission provides qualifying contribution forms to candidates free of charge
- Candidates may develop their own form, but it must be submitted for Commission approval prior to use.
  - Forms shall include:
    - printed name,
    - registration address,
    - signature of the contributor,
    - contribution date, and
    - solicitor information, if no solicitor then the candidate completes the section.
- Original – for submission with the application for funding,
- 1 copy for the candidate's records, and,
- 1 copy given to the contributor.



# \$5 Qual. Contributions & E-Qual



**WELCOME to E-Qual** Arizona Secretary of State  
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Interested in getting involved in the political process?  
With E-Qual, it's never been easier. It's simple to use,  
secure, and convenient.

With E-Qual, you can show your support for a candidate  
from the comfort of your home or anywhere internet  
access is available.

In Arizona, candidates are required to obtain a minimum  
number of petition signatures to appear on a ballot.  
Voters interested in assisting Statewide and Legislative  
candidates can now sign a petition electronically.

Clean Elections candidates are required to obtain \$5  
qualifying contributions from registered voters to qualify  
for public funding. Voters may now contribute a \$5  
qualifying contribution with E-Qual.

Click on a box below to get started now!

**SIGN A  
CANDIDATE  
NOMINATING  
PETITION** Arizona Secretary of State

**CONTRIBUTE A  
\$5 DOLLAR  
QUALIFYING  
CONTRIBUTION** Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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Privacy Policy

- Optional method of collecting petition signatures and \$5 Qualifying Contributions.
- Accessible through the Secretary of State's candidate portal.
- A candidate may collect 100% of their \$5 qualifying contributions through E-Qual.
- Candidates will need to set up an electronic payment account through Stripe.
  - Candidates should refer to the E-Qual User Manual when establishing the campaign's payment account, available at [azsos.gov](http://azsos.gov).

# *CLEAN ELECTIONS FUNDING*

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Applying And  
Qualifying

# W-9 Vendor Application Form



## State of Arizona Substitute W-9: Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Submit completed form to the State of Arizona Agency with whom you are doing business with for review and authorization.

<b>Type of Request (Must select at least ONE)</b>		
1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Request <input type="checkbox"/> New Location (Additional Address ID) <input type="checkbox"/> Change - Select the type(s) of change from the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Tax ID <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Name <input type="checkbox"/> Entity Type <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Business Indicator <input type="checkbox"/> Main Address <input type="checkbox"/> Remittance Address <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Information		
2 <b>Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) (Provide ONE Only)</b>		
TIN <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> OR SSN <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>		
3 <b>Entity Name</b> (As it appears on IRS EIN records, IRS Letter CP575, IRS Letter 147C or Social Security Administration Records, Social Security Card. If Individual, Sole Proprietor, Single Member LLC, enter First, Middle, Last Name.)		
Legal Name <input type="text"/> Mike Becker		
DBA Name <input type="text"/> Mike for State Senate		
4 <b>Entity Type (Must select ONE of the following)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual/Sole Proprietor or Single-Member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> The US or any of its political subdivisions or instrumentalities		
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> A state, a possession of the US, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities		
<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Tax Reportable Entity    Description <input type="text"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company (LLC) including Corporations & Partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Tax Exempt Entity		
5 <b>Minority Business Indicator (Must select ONE of the following)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business <input type="checkbox"/> Small, Woman Owned Business- Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Owned Business- African American		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business- African American <input type="checkbox"/> Small, Woman Owned Business- Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Owned Business- Asian		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business- Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Small, Woman Owned Business- Other Minority <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Owned Business- Hispanic		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business- Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned Business <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Owned Business- Native American		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business- Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned Business- African American <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Owned Business- Other Minority		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business- Other Minority <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned Business- Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit, IRC §501(c)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small, Woman Owned Business <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned Business- Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Small, Non-Minority or Non-Woman Owned Business		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small, Woman Owned Business- African American <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned Business- Native American <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual, Non-Business		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small, Woman Owned Business- Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned Business- Other Minority		
6 <b>Veteran Owned Business</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
7 <b>Entity Address</b>		
<b>Main Address</b> (Where tax information and general correspondence is to be mailed) <b>Remittance Address</b> (Where payment is to be mailed) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Main		
Address Line 1 <input type="text"/> 123 Main St    Address Line 1 <input type="text"/>		
Address Line 2 <input type="text"/>		
City <input type="text"/> Phoenix    State <input type="text"/> AZ    Zip code <input type="text"/> 85007    City <input type="text"/> State <input type="text"/> Zip code <input type="text"/>		
8 <b>Vendor Contact Information</b>		
Name <input type="text"/> Mike Becker    Title <input type="text"/> Candidate		
Phone <input type="text"/> 123-123-4567    Ext. <input type="text"/> Fax <input type="text"/> Email <input type="text"/> mike@candiate.com		
9 <b>Exemption from Backup Withholding and FATCA Reporting:</b> Complete this section if it is applicable to you. See instructions for more details		
Exemption Code for Backup Withholding <input type="text"/> Exemption Code for FATCA Reporting <input type="text"/>		
10 <b>Certification</b>		
Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:		
1. The number shown on this form is my correct Taxpayer Identification Number, and		
2. I am not subject to Backup Withholding because (a) I am exempt from Backup Withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the IRS that I am subject to Backup Withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to Backup Withholding, and		
3. I am a US citizen or other US person, and		
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.		
The Internal Revenue Service does not require your consent to this document other than the certifications required to avoid backup withholding.		
<b>Certification instructions:</b> You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN.		
Signature <input type="text"/> MB    Print Name <input type="text"/> Mike Becker    Date <input type="text"/> 09/09/25		

Fill out an Arizona W-9 Form and **return** form to the Commission office.

- Form available online: [GAO-W-9 State of Arizona Substitute W-9.pdf \(az.gov\)](#) This form designates the candidate as a vendor and allows the Commission to process a check once the candidate is approved for funding.

# ACH Form – Direct Deposit

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION GENERAL ACCOUNTING

### STATE OF ARIZONA ACH AUTHORIZATION FORM

Original form is preferred. Please contact Vendor.PayAutomation@azdoa.gov if you have questions about the form or setup process.

**DO NOT SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO STATE OF ARIZONA AGENCIES. SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO:**

**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION/GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

**ATTN: VENDOR SETUP  
100 N 15TH AVE, STE 302  
PHOENIX, AZ 85007**

☐ Check if DES/DDD Provider

1	<b>Request Type</b> (Select only ONE) <input checked="" type="radio"/> New <input type="radio"/> Change <input type="radio"/> Cancellation, Cancellation Reason: _____			
2	<b>Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)</b> EIN <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> OR SSN <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>			
3	<b>Legal Name, Address and Contact Information</b> Name Mike Becker Phone 315-480-6126 Ext _____ Address 123 Main St City Phoenix State AZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zip Code 85007 Email Address mike@candida.com			
4	<b>Change Information - FOR CHANGE REQUEST ONLY</b> Changing: <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Account Type <input type="checkbox"/> Account Number <input type="checkbox"/> Authorized Signers Previous Financial Institution: _____ Previous Account Type: <input type="radio"/> Checking <input type="radio"/> Savings Previous Account Number: _____			
5	<b>AUTHORIZATION FOR NEW SETUP, CHANGE(S) OR CANCELLATION</b> Pursuit to A.R.S. Sec. 35-185, I authorize the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA), General Accounting Office (GAO) to process payments owed to me by the State of Arizona (State) via Automated Clearing House (ACH) deposits. The State shall deposit the ACH payments in the financial institution and account designated below. <b>I recognize that if I fail to provide complete and accurate information on this authorization form, the processing of the form may be delayed or made impossible, and my electronic payments may be posted to the wrong account.</b> <b>I authorize the State to withdraw from the designated account all amounts deposited electronically in error in accordance with NACHA rules and timelines.</b> If the designated account is closed or has an insufficient balance to allow withdrawal, then I authorize the State to withhold any payment owed to me by the State until the erroneously deposited amounts are repaid. If I decide to change or revoke this authorization, I recognize that I must forward such notice to the ADOA-GAO. The change or revocation is effective on the day the ADOA-GAO processes the request. I certify that I have read and agree to comply with the State's rules governing payments and electronic transfers as they exist on the date of my signature on this form or as subsequently adopted, amended, or repealed. I consent to, and agree to, comply with these rules even if they conflict with this authorization form. I authorize the State to stop making electronic transfers to my account without advance notice. I certify that I am authorized to contract for the entity receiving deposits pursuant to this agreement and that all information provided is accurate.			
	Name Mike Becker	Authorized Signature (Required) <i>MB</i>	Title Candidate	Date 09/09/25
	<b>Additional Authorized Signers</b>			
	Name _____	Authorized Signature _____	Title _____	Date _____
	Name _____	Authorized Signature _____	Title _____	Date _____
	Addendum record format <input type="radio"/> CTX <input type="radio"/> CCD+ <b>Detailed ACH payment can also be viewed online at <a href="http://venpay.gao.azdoa.gov">http://venpay.gao.azdoa.gov</a>.</b>			
6	<b>Financial Institution</b> Financial Institution Name Bank of Bank Phone 315-754-1234 Ext _____ Address (Optional) _____ City _____ State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zip Code _____ Routing Number 1212121 Account Number 345676511 Account Type <input checked="" type="radio"/> Checking <input type="radio"/> Savings			
7	<b>GAO USE ONLY</b> Verified and Entered By And Date _____ Vendor # _____ Address ID _____ Entity Contact Verified By _____ Doc Number Entered _____ Approved By _____			

- Fill out this form and return it to the Commission. This allows Commission staff the ability to track it and ensure it is processed in a timely manner.
- Hard copy checks are no longer used.

# Prior to Applying for Funding

- Collect at least 20% more qualifying forms than required
- Verify the \$5 qualifying forms before submitting them
  - The County Recorders offer access to the Voter Registration Database for verification
  - Verify the forms are:
    - Signed
    - Dated
    - Person is registered to vote in the district
- ***Remember the Deadline! Don't Procrastinate!***
  - Last day to submit contributions to Secretary of State's Office August 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

# Contents of Filing for Funding

- *Application to Receive Participating Funds* including:
  - The \$5 Qualifying Contribution List.
  - E-Qual Report if \$5 Qualifying Contributions were collected through E-Qual system.
- All **original** \$5 qualifying contribution forms sorted by county.
- A check made payable to “Clean Elections Fund” from your campaign bank account for the total amount of \$5 qualifying contributions submitted.
- Contact the Secretary of State’s Office ahead to make an appointment for filing your application package.
  - Candidates can apply for funding starting **January 1, 2026** if they also submit their nomination papers and petitions at the same time.

# **\$5 Qualifying Contribution Verification Process**

- Secretary of State will forward your \$5 qualifying forms to the County Recorder for verification
  - The County Recorder has 10 days to verify your forms.
- County Recorders will reject the qualifying form if:
  - Unsigned
  - Undated
  - Signature doesn't match voter registration signature
  - Person is not registered to vote in the district
  - Original reporting slip does not accompany contribution

# Random Sample Procedure

- A 5% or 20% random sample is selected by the Secretary of State's office.
- Sent to the County Recorder(s) office for verification.
- Sample accuracy is 110% or greater:  
*Funding Granted!*
- Sample accuracy less than 110%:  
*All qualifying contributions must be verified!*



# 20% Random Sample Procedure Example

- Legislative Candidate Example:
- A candidate for a legislative seat submits 240 qualifying contributions.
- Secretary of State takes 20% sample of 240, which is 48.
  - If 48 of the 48 are valid,  $48 \times 5$  is 240,  $240/200$  is 120% which is above 110%. Therefore, funding is granted.
  - If 43 of the 48 are valid,  $43 \times 5$  is 215,  $215/200$  is 108% which is below 110%. Therefore, all 240 \$5 qualifying contribution forms must be verified by the county recorder.

# Supplemental Submission

- If there is an insufficient number of valid forms after the County Recorder checks all of the submitted forms, the candidate may make *one supplemental filing* to the Secretary of State's office only if:
  - The candidate files at least the minimum number of additional forms needed to qualify for funding;
  - The additional forms are not duplicates from individuals who have previously contributed to that candidate; and
  - Deadlines for collecting and submitting \$5 qualifying contributions have not passed.
- The candidate will be denied funding if, following the supplemental filing, the County Recorder determines that the candidate has failed to submit the required number of valid qualifying contributions.

# Receiving Funds

- The Secretary of State's office will notify the Commission once the candidate has qualified for funding.
- Once notified, the Commission will inform the Department of Administration (DOA) to process the funding as well as inform the candidate that they have been funded. The funding is directly deposited in to the candidate's campaign bank account typically 2-4 business days after DOA is notified depending on the candidate's bank.
- All candidate funding is awarded electronically via direct deposit. To allow for a timely deposit, candidates should review their W-9 to ensure all information is accurate. Any errors will lead to a delay in funding.

# Receiving Funds cont.

## Proposed NEW - R2-20-106 & R2-20-706 – NEW Proposed

- Prior to a candidate receiving funds (whether the primary or general) from the Commission, the candidate must submit a sworn, notarized statement stating that under penalty of perjury:
    1. All campaign finance reports have been filed.
    2. All campaign finance reports are complete and accurate including all reporting requirements related to vendors and subcontractors.
    3. All conditions related to the use of consultants have been met.
- Failure to file campaign finance reports will result in a delay in funding and daily fines.
- Once funding is authorized and a candidate has NOT filed campaign finance reports, within 5 days of the failure to file, the Commission will ask for the funds to be returned.

# Clean Elections Funding Amounts

Election Funding	Governor	Secretary of State	Attorney General	Treasurer	Supt. Of Public Inst.	Corporation Commission	Mine Inspector	Legislature
Primary	\$1,141,328	\$295,743	\$295,743	\$147,836	\$147,836	\$147,836	\$73,943	\$23,099
General	\$1,711,992	\$443,615	\$443,615	\$221,754	\$221,754	\$221,754	\$110,915	\$34,649
Independent	\$1,997,324	\$517,550	\$517,550	\$258,713	\$258,713	\$258,713	\$129,400	\$40,423

- **Independent candidates:**

- Receive one (1) disbursement of 70% of the combined primary and general election funds.

- **One Party Dominate Legislative Candidates:**

- Legislative candidates who are in a one-party dominant district may choose to receive the general funding amount in the primary election if they are a member of the dominant party and in a contested primary.
- Candidates who make this choice will receive an amount equal to the primary election funding amount in the general election.

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# CAMPAIGN FINANCE

*Reporting Requirements, Contributions,  
Expenditures, and Usage of Funds*

# Campaign Finance Disclosure

- Candidates must file campaign finance reports electronically with the Secretary of State's office.
  - Accessed through the Secretary of State's website at [www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov)
  - Each report must include all contributions, expenditures, outstanding debt, and financial activity for the reporting period.
- Participating candidates are required to file additional campaign finance reports.
  - Reports are reviewed by the Commission staff.
  - **Failure to file any report will result in daily fines of \$220 for legislative candidates and \$600 for statewide candidates, and will delay funding. Additionally, candidates may be required to repay all of their Clean Election funds.**

# Campaign Contributions

A.R.S. §16-901(11)

- “**Contribution**” means any gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing an election. This includes:
  - A contribution that is made to retire campaign debt from a previous election cycle.
  - Money or fair market value of anything that is directly or indirectly provided to an elected official for the specific purpose of defraying the expense of communications with constituents.
  - The full purchase price of any item from a committee.
  - A loan that is made to a committee for the purpose of influencing an election, to the extent the loan remains outstanding



# Early Individual Contributions

Candidate Type	Early Contribution Limit
Legislature	\$5,775
Mine Inspector	\$18,486
Corporation Commission	\$36,959
Supt. Of Public Inst.	\$36,959
Treasurer	\$36,959
Attorney General	\$73,936
Secretary of State	\$73,936
Governor	\$76,880

- Contributions collected during the Qualifying Period only
  - **\$220 per individual** - monetary, in-kind contribution or loan
  - Received from individuals only
    - Does not have to be resident of Arizona
    - Does not have to be registered to vote
    - Legal residents of the United States only
  - May not be received from PACs, corporations, businesses, unions, LLC, etc.
- Must be received and spent by July 28, 2026
  - Any remaining early contributions must be sent to the Commission.

# Personal & Family Early Contributions

- Candidates may spend a limited amount of their own monies or family monies on their campaign.
  - Statewide: **\$1,910**
  - Legislature: **\$970**
- Personal and family contributions are in addition to early individual contributions.
- Personal contributions must be spent by July 28, 2026.
  - Any unspent personal contributions must be returned to the contributor.
- “Family member” means parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, child or sibling of the candidate or the candidate’s spouse, including the spouse of any of the listed family members, regardless of whether the relation is established by marriage or adoption.

# Other Early Contribution Types

- **Loans**

- A loan is a contribution.
- Candidate may designate personal contribution as a loan.
- Other individuals may loan money to the campaign.
- Loans apply towards early contribution limits.
- Loans must be repaid promptly upon receiving Clean Elections funding (*within 7 days*).

- **In-Kind Contributions**

- An in-kind contribution is a contribution of goods or services or anything of value.
- **In-kind contributions apply towards early contribution limits.**

# Disclosure Requirements for Contributions

- A campaign finance report must include all contributions accepted by the committee through the end of the reporting period.
- Each contribution shall include the name, address, occupation and employer of the contributor.
- Contributions of \$100 or less may be aggregated.

# Contributions Exceptions

A.R.S. §16-911

- **Campaign Volunteers** - A volunteer's services or expenses that are incurred through volunteering are not considered campaign contributions. Volunteer services are unlimited and do not need to be reported such as:
  - Travel expenses
  - Use of real or personal property
  - Cost of invitations, food or beverages - event expenses
  - Internet activity such as the use of unpaid e-mail and social media
- **Political Party Exception** - A payment by a political party to support its nominee is not a contribution (e.g. printing or distribution of voter guides, sample ballots, pins, bumper stickers, handbills, brochures, posters, yard signs and other similar materials distributed through the party). This also includes expenditures that are coordinated with the party's nominee.
- **Legal and Accounting Services** - The payment of a committee's legal or accounting expenses by any person is not considered a campaign contribution.

# Campaign Expenditures

A.R.S. §16-901(25)

- **Expenditures**

- An “expenditure” means any purchase, payment or thing of value that is made by a person for the purpose of influencing an election.
- All expenditures made by the campaign committee must be reported in the period in which they are incurred.
- Participating candidates may only use campaign funds to pay for goods and services for direct campaign purposes.

# Campaign Expenditures Cont.

- **Joint Expenditures**

- A joint expenditure is made when two or more candidates agree to share the cost of goods or services.

- **Reimbursements**

- A candidate may authorize an individual to make campaign expenditures as long as the campaign has sufficient funds to make the purchase. The date of the expenditure is when the purchase is made by the agent.
- If the agent uses their personal monies, a reimbursement from the campaign must be made within 7 calendar days.
- The expenditure must be reported as an itemized expenditure.

- **Expenditures for campaign consulting or advising must have a detailed description of the service provided in the campaign finance reports**

# Campaign Expenditures & Consultants

- A “Campaign Consultant” is any person paid by a participating candidate’s campaign or who provides services that are ordinarily charged to a person, except for services provided for in ARS §16-911(6)(b).
- **Participating candidates may only make an advance payment for services if an itemized invoice is received at the time of the advanced payment.**
  - If an invoice is not provided it will be deemed to not be a direct campaign expenditure.
  - Payments for postage or advertising may be advanced if a written estimate is provided and the balance returned to the candidate.
- The Commission shall be included on the mail batch for all mailers and invitations.
  - Failure to provide this information within 7 days after the mailer has been mailed may be considered as evidence the mailer was not for a direct campaign purpose.



# Campaign Expenditures & Political Parties

- With the passage of Proposition 306 in 2018, participating candidates are prohibited from transferring money to political parties and/or 501(a) entities.

# Use of Prior Assets

- A participating candidate may use assets from a prior election cycle.
  - The candidate must purchase the assets from the previous campaign committee.
  - If the candidate was a participating candidate during the prior election cycle, the payment for the asset must be made to the Commission.
  - The purchase must be made for an amount equal to at least 1/5 (or 20%) of the original purchase price.
- Prior assets may not be utilized until payment has been made.

# Fixed Assets

- A fixed asset is an item that has a value and function beyond the campaign (i.e. tablets, computers, cell phones, printers).
- Candidates that purchase a fixed asset that exceeds \$200 (including tax) have two options:
  1. Pay the Commission 80% of the original purchase price (including the tax) and keep the item.
  2. Give the item to the Commission.
- Purchase of fixed assets, or return of fixed assets, must occur within 14 days after the primary election, or general election if the candidate was successful in the primary.

# Travel Expenses

- Travel expenses that are directly related to the campaign may be paid for with campaign funds and if so, must be reported.
  - Volunteers may be reimbursed for travel expenses (up to 62.5¢ per mile).
  - Only candidates may make direct fuel purchases for their personal vehicles.
  - If a candidate makes direct fuel purchases (*candidate only*) or reimbursements for mileage (*candidate or volunteers*), **a travel log of the trip must be kept and include: date, miles traveled, and potential reimbursement rate** (up to 62.5¢ per mile).
  - Bus tickets, plane tickets, rental cars, etc. purchased on behalf of the campaign must be paid for with campaign funds and must be reported.

## Citizens Clean Elections Commission

### Mileage Reimbursement Form

Candidate Name	
Office Sought	

	Rate Per Mile (Not to Exceed 44.5 cents)
	Reporting Period of Travel
	Total Mileage
	Total Reimbursement

\$	
\$	

[illegible]

# Food Expenses

- Maximum per person of \$14 for breakfast, \$18 for lunch, \$38 for dinner.
- All food expenditures paid for with campaign funds must be reported.
- Food expenses for candidates are discretionary.
  - Any expenditure must be directly related to a candidate's campaign

# Petty Cash Expenditures

- Cash balance not to exceed \$1,910 at any time.
- Cash expenditures not to exceed \$220.
- Keep receipts for actual expenses.
- **Campaign finance reports must identify the full name and street address of the person providing goods and services for expenditures paid with petty cash.**
  - **This includes any payment to a sub-vendor (itemization) made on behalf of the campaign.**

# Itemized Expenditures

- **Expenditures must be itemized when:**
  - A candidate has authorized another agent to make campaign purchases and personal monies are used (i.e. reimbursements).
  - **Consultants or vendors use services from other vendors in their fulfillment of the candidate's campaign expenditure.**
- A candidate makes a petty cash expenditure.

# Campaign Expenditures & Family

- A family member hired by the campaign must be identified as “family member” on the campaign finance reports (use the transaction memo line).
- A family member’s business hired by the campaign must be identified as “family business” on the campaign finance report (use the transaction memo line).



# Additional Expenditure Limitations

- Participating candidates may NOT use campaign funds for the following:
  - Cost of legal defense
  - Personal use, which includes:
    - Household food items
    - Clothing (Suits, Shoes, Ties, Accessories, etc.)
    - Tuition payments
    - Mortgage, loan, rent, lease or utility payments for any part of any personal residence of the candidate or a member of the candidate's family
    - Admission to a sporting event, concert, theater, or other form of entertainment
    - Dues, fees or gratuities at a country club, health club, recreational facility or other nonpolitical organization
    - Gifts or donations
  - Fixed assets with a value in excess of \$800

# Post-Election Return of Monies

- Remaining primary monies cannot be transferred to the general election period.
  - All money remaining in your account at the end of the primary election must be returned to the Commission by August 18, 2026.
  - All money remaining in your account at the end of the general election must be returned to the Commission by December 4, 2026.
  - You may only retain monies sufficient to pay any outstanding bills. Must be paid within 30 days.
  - No new bills may be incurred.

# Post-Election Return of Monies

- **All funds need to be returned by a cashier's check drawn on the candidate's campaign bank account.**
  - Any fees for the issuance of the cashier's check are a direct campaign expenditure and should be reported on campaign finance reports.
- Candidates must account for all outstanding transactions in the funds returned to the Commission otherwise they will need to reconcile outstanding expenditures with personal monies.
  - The Commission will not issue reimbursements to candidates once the funds have been returned.
  - Participating candidates may not exceed the primary or general election spending limits.
- The Commission may waive the return of the funds if:
  - The Commission staff determines the amount to be returned to be de minimus;
  - The Commission staff determines the cost of recovery exceeds the amount of the return;
  - The funds to be returned shall not exceed \$25; and
  - The Commission is notified of any waiver of the return of funds.

# Record Keeping

- Keep **all** records for 3 years, including but not limited to:
  - Bank Statements and Deposit Slips
  - Receipts/Invoices
  - Check Register
  - Travel Log
  - Contracts from vendors
  - Bills
  - Documentation of contributions from individuals
  - \$5 qualifying contribution forms
- All participating candidates will be subject to an audit. Audits will begin after either the primary or general election. **The audit will include all campaign activity from the start of your campaign until the end.**
- Commission staff and auditors will request documentation.
- The candidate has the burden of proving every expenditure was made on behalf of the campaign

# Campaign Finance Activity Key Points

1. Conduct all campaign finance activity through a single bank account.
2. Do not exceed contribution and expenditure limits.
3. Do not use campaign funds for personal use.
4. Remember participating candidates have the burden of proving that expenditures are for a direct campaign purpose - keep all of your records.
5. Itemize reimbursements, petty cash expenditures, or any expenditure that utilizes a sub-vendor.
6. Provide detailed information in the transaction memo line for any consulting services or expenditures made to family members.
7. Do not “carry over” primary money to the general election.

# VOTER EDUCATION

*Candidate Statement Pamphlet  
& Debates*

# Voter Education-Debates

- Participating candidates are required to attend a Commission sponsored debate during both the primary and general election periods. Traditional candidates are invited and encouraged to attend.
- Commission staff will notify you of the candidate debate dates.
- Failure to attend a debate may result in an enforcement action.
- Voters will be notified via multiple communication channels of the debate schedule and participants.
- Independent and write-in candidates will not be invited to participate in primary-election debates.

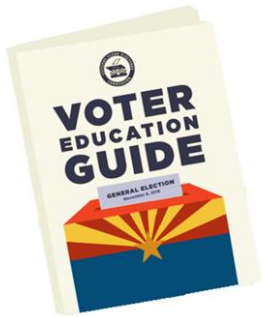


# Voter Education

## Candidate Statement Pamphlet

- Candidates may submit a statement, bio and photo for inclusion in the pamphlet which will be mailed before early voting in the primary and general elections.
- Statements, bios and photos must be submitted online at [www.azcleanelections.gov](http://www.azcleanelections.gov).
- Deadlines for Statements\*
  - Primary – Midnight, **April 1, 2026**
  - General – Midnight, **August 5, 2026**
- Statements will be available in the printed pamphlet and digitally.
- Independent and write-in candidates will not be able to submit statements or bios for the primary election pamphlet.

\* dates subject to change





# Candidate Compass



- Candidate Compass Tool:
  - Present information in an unbiased way
  - Let voters filter information according to the issues that matter to them
  - See where the candidates stand on the issues
  - Make sure the research tool is easy-to-use and information is presented in an easy-to-understand way
- Candidates will be able to submit their answers for Candidate Compass when submitting their statement for the candidate statement pamphlet.

# Additional Materials

## Citizens Clean Elections Guide

- Available on the Commission's website: [www.azcleanelections.gov](http://www.azcleanelections.gov)

## \$5 Qualifying Contribution Forms

- Available from the Commission and can be picked up at:  
Citizens Clean Election Commission  
1110 W Washington, Suite 250  
Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Download from the Commission's website: [www.azcleanelections.gov](http://www.azcleanelections.gov)
- Available to be mailed to the Candidate – sent via FedEx

## Commission Staff

- Mike Becker, Policy Director
- [mike.becker@azcleanelections.gov](mailto:mike.becker@azcleanelections.gov)
- Office: 602-364-3480 – Cell: 602-245-4219
- Toll free: 1-877-631-8891

# PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE WORKSHOP

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*Conclusion*