

**IMPORTANT – The information contained in this CFLA Candidate Brochure applies only to candidates for the Nebraska Legislature.** Candidates for other state offices should refer to the CFLA Candidate Brochure for the office sought.

NOTE: This brochure does not address all filing requirements for candidates. Please obtain a copy of the Candidate Brochure for 2008.

## **SECTION I**

### **Summary of the Campaign Finance Limitation Act For the 2008 Elections – Candidates for Legislature**

For the 2008 elections, candidates for the Nebraska Legislature are covered under the Campaign Finance Limitation Act (the CFLA).

For Legislative candidates in the 2008 elections:

- The election period begins January 1, 2007 and ends December 31, 2008;
- The primary election period begins January 1, 2007 and ends June 17, 2008;
- The general election period begins June 18, 2008 and ends December 31, 2008.

The CFLA establishes **voluntary** limits on campaign expenditures. For Legislative candidates in the 2008 elections, these voluntary limits are:

- \$44,500 of restricted spending for the primary election period
- \$89,000 of restricted spending for the election period (including the \$44,500 for the primary election period).

Restricted spending includes all expenditures except "unrestricted spending". "Unrestricted spending" consists of:

- Gifts of acknowledgement; and
- Conference fees, meals, lodging, and travel by an officeholder and his or her staff when involved in activities related to the duties of his or her public office.

Candidates who choose to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits of the CFLA may become eligible to receive public funds for their campaigns. This choice is accomplished by filing a *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission (the Commission). The choice to abide is non-reversible.

Abiding candidates who wish to receive public funds must file an *Application for Public Funds* with the Commission. Public funds will be distributed only if specific statutory criteria are met. Expenditures of public funds are not counted against the voluntary expenditure limits of the CFLA.

Candidates who choose not to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits of the CFLA cannot become eligible for public funds. This choice is accomplished by filing a *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits* with the Commission. The choice not to abide is non-reversible.

Non-abiding candidates must estimate their maximum restricted spending for the primary election period and the general election period. These estimates will be used to determine the amount of public funds that their opponents may be eligible to receive. Non-abiding candidates must also file Affidavits with the Commission indicating when their total restricted expenditures equal or exceed 40% of the spending limit for the primary election period and for the general election period.

The CFLA also establishes **mandatory** limits on the total contributions that candidates may receive from "persons other than individuals". For the 2008 elections, this aggregate contribution limit that applies to all Legislative candidates is \$44,500 for the election period (primary plus general).

## **SECTION II**

### **Candidate's Affidavits to Abide or Not to Abide by Spending Limits**

The CFLA establishes voluntary limits on campaign expenditures by candidates for the Nebraska Legislature. For the 2008 elections, the voluntary expenditure limits that apply to Legislative candidates are \$44,500 of restricted spending for the primary election period, and \$89,000 of restricted spending for the election period (primary plus general). Any legislative candidates who desire to receive public funds pursuant to the CFLA must abide by these voluntary limits on restricted spending.

Legislative candidates must decide whether or not to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits of the CFLA. Legislative candidates who choose to abide by those limits must file a *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* (NADC Form CFLA-1). Legislative candidates who choose not to abide by those limits must file a *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits* (NADC Form CFLA-2).

For the 2008 elections, Legislative candidates who have an existing candidate committee registered with the Commission as of December 31, 2006, must file either their Affidavit to Abide or their Affidavit Not to Abide with the Commission on or before January 2, 2007. Legislative candidates who do not have an existing candidate committee as of December 31, 2006, must file either their Affidavit to Abide or their Affidavit Not to Abide with the Commission within 10 days after raising, receiving or expending more than \$5,000 for their campaign during a calendar year. Under the CFLA, failure to file either an Affidavit to Abide or an Affidavit Not to Abide as required is subject to late filing fees of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$750.

NOTE: See Candidate Brochure for 2008 for other filing requirements.

Legislative candidates who are not required to form a candidate committee (candidates who have not raised, received, or spent more than \$5,000 during a calendar year) are not required to file either an Affidavit to Abide or an Affidavit Not to Abide.

Under the CFLA, candidates for Legislature required to file an Affidavit to Abide or an Affidavit Not to Abide must file the affidavit with the Commission. The election official shall not accept any Legislative candidate's filing to appear on the ballot if the appropriate Affidavit is not on file with the Commission.

Legislative candidates who file an Affidavit Not to Abide must also attach an *Estimate of Expenditures for the Primary Election* (NADC Form CFLA-4), stating a reasonable estimate of their maximum restricted expenditures for the primary election period. For the 2008 elections, the primary election period begins January 1, 2007, and ends June 17, 2008. Estimates for the primary election period may be amended by filing an *Amended Estimate of Expenditures* (NADC Form CFLA-6) on or before April 14, 2008. In addition, such candidates must file a *Candidate's Forty Percent Expenditure Affidavit* (NADC Form CFLA-7) with the Commission within 2 days after spending 40% of the expenditure limit for the primary election period. Forty Percent of \$44,500 is \$17,800. Failure to timely file this affidavit can result in late filing fees of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$750. The failure to timely file may also result in a civil penalty of not less than \$2,000. If the failure to timely file results in a delay or denial of public funds to a qualified opponent, the civil penalty shall be not more than three times the amount of public funds which were delayed or denied.

Legislative candidates who file an Affidavit Not to Abide and who advance to the general election must file an *Estimate of Expenditures for the General Election* (NADC Form CFLA-5) with the Commission on or before June 23, 2008, stating a reasonable estimate of their maximum restricted expenditures for the general election period. For the 2008 elections, the general election period begins June 18, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. Estimates for the general election period may be amended by filing an *Amended Estimate of Expenditures* on or before September 5, 2008. In addition, such candidates must file a *Candidate's Forty Percent Expenditure Affidavit* with the Commission within 2 days after spending 40% of the expenditure limit for the general election period. Forty Percent of \$44,500 is \$17,800. See prior paragraph for information on late filing fees and civil penalties.

The estimated and actual expenditures of Legislative candidates who choose not to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits of the CFLA will be used to determine the amount of public funds, if any, that those candidates' opponents may be eligible to receive during the 2008 elections.

**EXAMPLE 1:** Candidates A and B both file for the Legislature, District 50. Candidate A chooses to abide by the spending limits of the CFLA. Candidate B chooses not to abide

by the spending limits of the CFLA, and estimates maximum restricted expenditures of \$50,000 for the primary election period.

If Candidate A abides by the spending limits of the CFLA and meets other qualifying criteria, and if Candidate B makes at least \$17,800 [40% of \$44,500] of restricted expenditures during the primary election period, then Candidate A will be eligible for \$5,500 in public funds for the Primary Election, calculated as follows:

Estimated restricted expenditures by Candidate B, primary	\$50,000
Expenditure limit for the primary election period	<u>-44,500</u>
Public funds payable to Candidate A, primary election	\$5,500

**EXAMPLE 2:** Candidates C and D both file for the Legislature, District 51. Candidate C chooses to abide by the spending limits of the CFLA. Candidate D chooses not to abide by the spending limits of the CFLA, and estimates maximum restricted expenditures of \$43,000 for the primary election period. In addition, Candidate D's actual spending does not exceed the spending limit. No public funds are distributed in the primary election. Candidates C and D both advance to the General Election. Candidate D estimates maximum restricted expenditures of \$60,000 for the general election period.

If Candidate C abides by the spending limits of the CFLA and meets other qualifying criteria, and if Candidate D makes at least \$17,800 [40% of \$44,500] of restricted expenditures during the general election period, then Candidate C will be eligible for \$15,500 in public funds for the General Election, calculated as follows:

Estimated restricted expenditures by Candidate D, general	60,000
Expenditure limit for the general election period	<u>-44,500</u>
Public funds payable to Candidate C, general election	\$15,500.

**EXAMPLE 3:** Candidates E and F both file for the Legislature, District 53. Candidate E chooses to abide by the spending limits of the CFLA and meets other qualifying criteria. Candidate F chooses not to abide by the spending limits of the CFLA, and estimates maximum restricted expenditures of \$43,000 for the primary election period. Candidate F's 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Campaign Statement shows he spent \$48,500. Candidate E will be eligible for \$4,000 in public funds for the Primary Election calculated as follows:

Actual restricted expenditures by Candidate F, primary	48,500
Expenditure limit for the primary election period	<u>-44,500</u>
Public funds payable to Candidate E, primary election	4,000

## SECTION III

### **Applications for Public Funds**

Legislative candidates who have filed a *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* will be eligible to receive public funds for their campaigns if at least one of their opponents has filed a *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits* and:

- has estimated maximum expenditures which exceed the voluntary expenditure limits of the CFLA (\$44,500 of restricted spending for the primary election period, and \$44,500 of restricted spending for the general election period); and
- Has spent at least 40% of the spending limit for the election.

OR

- Has spent more than \$44,500 as disclosed by any campaign statement

To qualify for public funds, candidates for Legislature who have filed a *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* must also:

- Raise at least \$22,250 in qualifying contributions from persons who are "residents" of Nebraska, of which at least \$14,462.50 must be raised from individuals. The term "resident" includes a business which has an office in the State and transacts business here. NOTE: Qualifying contributions do not include money raised prior to the filing of an Affidavit to Abide or money raised prior to January 1, 2007.
- Make at least \$22,250 of qualifying expenditures. NOTE: Qualifying expenditures do not include expenditures made prior to the filing of an Affidavit to Abide or expenditures made prior to January 1, 2007.
- File an *Application for Public Funds* (NADC Form CFLA-8) with the Commission. The deadline to apply for public funds for the Primary Election is April 15, 2008. The deadline to apply for public funds for the General Election is September 8, 2008.
- When directed by the Commission, provide campaign records to the Commission staff. The Commission staff will determine if the requisite contributions have been raised and the requisite expenditures made. Any candidate desiring to receive public funds shall keep **detailed accounts, records, bills, and receipts** to substantiate the information in the *Application for Public Funds*.

#### **Qualifying Contributions:**

In general, qualifying contributions are contributions as defined by §49-1415 of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act (the NPADA). This definition provides that a contribution includes a payment of money or anything of monetary value that is given for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate.

Qualifying contributions do not include:

- Unpaid pledges;
- Loans;
- Contributions from any person who is not a "resident" of Nebraska; or
- Contributions for which the candidate's treasurer has not maintained a record of the contributor's name and address, and the amount and date of the contribution.

Contributions made by the candidate, other than campaign loans or the use of the candidate's homestead in the campaign, are considered qualifying contributions.

Contributions of \$50 or less received in currency at fundraising events pursuant to §49-1472(2) of the NPADA shall be considered qualifying contributions only if a written record of the contributions is maintained. This written record must include the contributor's name and address, the amount contributed, and the date the contribution was made. Also, the contributor must sign this written record.

**EXCEPTION:** Contributions of \$50 or less received in currency at fundraising events will be considered qualifying contributions without a written record, up to a total of \$1,800 for the election period (primary plus general).

### **Qualifying Expenditures:**

In general, qualifying expenditures are expenditures made by a candidate committee in support of the candidate's nomination or election to office.

Qualifying expenditures do not include:

- Accounts payable or other expenses incurred but not paid; or
- Unrestricted spending.

Unrestricted spending, as defined by the CFLA, consists of:

- Gifts of acknowledgment, including flowers and charitable contributions, except that gifts to any individual shall not exceed \$50 in any calendar year; and
- Meals, lodging, and travel by officeholders and their staff for activities related to the duties of their public office.

### **Loans in Anticipation of the Receipt of Public Funds**

An abiding candidate, who has been notified by the Commission that public funds are in the process of being distributed to the candidate, may obtain a loan in anticipation of the receipt of public funds. The public funds, upon receipt, may be used to repay the loan. Under such circumstances, the use of the loan funds does not count against the spending limit. The portion of the loan which is equal to or less than the amount of the anticipated public funds is not subject to the loan limits of §49-1446.04. A loan accepted under these circumstances is subject to reporting as a late contribution. See the 2008 Candidate Brochure for more information about late contributions.

**Example:** Candidate A is an abiding candidate who previously submitted her application for public funds, has had her records reviewed by the Commission, has been advised that she has met all qualifications and is eligible for \$15,000 in public funds. She has been advised that she will receive public funds upon the filing of a Forty Percent Affidavit by her opponent. On late Friday afternoon, 11 days before the election, the Commission calls and tells her that the Forty Percent Affidavit has arrived and public funds are being distributed. However, because of the hour, public funds will not likely reach her account until Monday or Tuesday. On Saturday, Candidate A goes to her bank and borrows \$11,000 to pay for a campaign mailing scheduled to go out that day. On Monday the public funds arrive and Candidate A uses the public funds to repay the loan. Candidate A also reports the loan as a late contribution to her committee by filing Form B-5.

### **Distribution of Public Funds:**

For the 2008 Primary Election, public funds are scheduled to be disbursed to eligible, qualifying candidates no sooner than April 15, 2008 and no later than 14 days after the election. For the 2008 General Election, public funds are scheduled to be disbursed to eligible, qualifying candidates no sooner than September 8, 2008 and no later than 14 days after the election.

The Commission will compute the amount of any payment to be made to a candidate. The computation will be based upon the greater of: a) the difference between the expenditure limits of the CFLA and the highest estimate of maximum expenditures filed by a Legislative candidate in that District **or** b) the difference between the spending limit and the highest amount of expenditures by a Legislative candidate in that District in excess of the spending limit. For the primary election, no candidate shall be eligible for public funds in an amount which is more than three times the primary spending limit. For the general election, no candidate shall be eligible for public funds in an amount which is more than three times the general spending limit. Applications for public funds will be processed in order of receipt by the Commission. Available funds will be distributed to qualifying candidates in the order of the completion of the processing and review of the applications by the Commission.

If all Legislative candidates in a District choose to abide by the expenditure limits of the CFLA, then no public funds will be disbursed to any candidates in that District.

If all Legislative candidates in a District choose not to abide by the expenditure limits of the CFLA, then no public funds will be disbursed to any candidates in that District.

## **SECTION IV**

### **Use and Reporting of Public Funds**

Candidates who receive public funds under the CFLA shall maintain detailed records as to the receipt and expenditure of the public funds. These public funds must be kept in a separate account in a financial institution in Nebraska. These public funds may not be commingled with any other funds, including other campaign funds. NOTE: Candidates who receive public funds under the CFLA will have two campaign accounts.

The use of public funds distributed to candidates under the CFLA is more restricted than the use of funds from other sources. Public funds provided to candidates under the CFLA may only be used to make expenditures for the following purposes:

- Services from a communications medium, including production costs;
- Printing, photography, graphic arts, or advertising services;
- Office supplies;
- Postage and other delivery services;
- Meals, lodging, and travel expenses;
- Campaign staff salaries; and
- Repayment of loans secured upon being notified public funds are to be distributed.

Candidates who receive public funds under the CFLA must file *Reports of Expenditures of Public Funds* (NADC Form CFLA-9) with the Commission to disclose how the public funds were used. These reports are required to be filed as follows:

- Candidates who receive public funds for the 2008 Primary Election must file a *Report of Expenditures of Public Funds* on or before June 23, 2008. The closing date for this report is June 17, 2008.

Candidates must also return any unexpended public funds for the 2008 Primary Election along with this report, unless the Commission specifically grants the candidate permission to offset those funds against public funds to be awarded for the 2008 General Election.

- Candidates who receive public funds for the 2008 General Election must file a *Report of Expenditures of Public Funds* on or before October 27, 2008. The closing date for this report is October 20, 2008.
- Candidates who receive public funds for the 2008 General Election must file an additional *Report of Expenditures of Public Funds* on or before December 31, 2008. The closing date for this report is December 31, 2008.

Candidates must also return any unexpended public funds for the 2008 elections along with this report. No public funds for the 2008 elections may be expended after December 31, 2008.

## SECTION V

### **Aggregate Contribution Limits**

During the election period, Legislative candidates may not accept contributions from "persons other than individuals" which, when aggregated, are in excess of \$44,500. These aggregate contribution limits are mandatory and apply to all Legislative candidates.

For the 2008 elections, the election period for Legislative candidates begins January 1, 2007, and ends December 31, 2008.

"Persons other than individuals" includes the following:

- Political parties;
- Independent political committees (PACs);
- Other candidate committees;
- Businesses, including partnerships and sole proprietorships;
- Corporations;
- Labor unions;
- Industry, trade, or professional associations; and
- Other organizations.

Once the aggregate contribution limit is reached, Legislative candidates may accept contributions only from individuals for the remainder of the election period.

## SECTION VI

### **SPECIAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENT, NON-ABIDING CANDIDATES**

Non-abiding candidates are required to file a third pre-election campaign statement. For the 2008 primary election the statement is due on May 7, 2008 and has a closing date of May 5, 2008. For the 2008 general election the statement is due on October 29, 2008 and has a closing date of October 27, 2008. **This statement must be filed such that it is received on or before the due date.** Unlike other filings with the Commission, the fact that it is postmarked on or before the due date is not sufficient. The statement must actually be received by the Commission. The information on this statement should be re-reported on the post-election campaign statement. This report should be made on Form B-1A entitled *Special Campaign Statement*. Failure to timely file this statement can result in late filing fees of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$750. The failure to timely file may also result in a civil penalty of not less than \$2,000. If the failure to timely file results in a delay or denial of public funds to a qualified opponent, the civil penalty shall be not more than three times the amount of public funds which were delayed or denied.

## **SECTION VII**

### **Term Limited Officeholders**

A member of the Nebraska State Legislature who holds a seat which will be filled by election in 2008 and who is barred from seeking reelection to that seat by the term limits provision of the Nebraska State Constitution, is not required to file an affidavit under the CFLA.

## **SECTION VIII**

### **Enforcement of the CFLA**

Violations of the CFLA may subject candidates and other persons to penalties as follows:

- Any candidate who receives public funds under the CFLA and exceeds the expenditure limits of the CFLA by less than 5% shall repay the amount by which the limit was exceeded. In addition, any such candidate and/or campaign treasurer shall be subject to civil penalties of not more than \$2,000.
- Any candidate who receives public funds under the CFLA and exceeds the expenditure limits of the CFLA by 5% or more shall repay the entire amount of public funds received, with interest. Any such candidate, and his/her campaign treasurer, shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor. In addition, any such candidate and/or campaign treasurer shall be subject to civil penalties of either \$2,000 or 10% of the amount by which the expenditure limit was exceeded, whichever is greater.
- Any candidate who files either a *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Expenditure Limits* or an Estimate of Expenditures for any election that he/she knows contains a material element which is false shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.
- Any person who violates any other provision of the CFLA, not otherwise specified, shall be subject to civil penalties of not more than \$2,000 per violation.

Questions about the CFLA may be directed to the Commission.

## **SECTION IX**

### **Advisory Opinions**

Any person or committee directly covered or affected by the provisions of the CFLA may apply to the Commission for an Advisory Opinion.

A request for an Advisory Opinion must be in writing, and must set forth a specific transaction or activity that the person or committee requesting the opinion either plans to

undertake or is presently undertaking and intends to continue in the future. A request for an Advisory Opinion should include a complete description of all the relevant facts involved in the transaction or activity at issue. Requests regarding general questions about or interpretations of the CFLA, hypothetical situations, or the activities of third parties will not be considered as requests for an Advisory Opinion.

Unless amended or revoked, an Advisory Opinion rendered by the Commission is binding upon the Commission in any subsequent charges before the Commission concerning the person or committee who requested the opinion and, in good faith, acted on reliance of that opinion (unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request).

## **SECTION X**

### **CFLA Forms**

The following CFLA filing forms are included in this guide:

- NADC Form CFLA-1 – *Candidate’s Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits*
- NADC Form CFLA-2 – *Candidate’s Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits*
- NADC Form CFLA-3 - *Candidate’s Exemption Statement*
- NADC Form CFLA-4 – *Estimate of Expenditures for the Primary Election*

The following CFLA filing forms are not included in this guide, but may be obtained from the Commission upon request:

- NADC Form CFLA-5 – *Estimate of Expenditures for the General Election*
- NADC Form CFLA-6 – *Amended Estimate of Expenditures*
- NADC Form CFLA-7 – *Candidate’s Forty Percent Expenditure Affidavit*
- NADC Form CFLA-8 – *Application for Public Funds*
- NADC Form CFLA-9 – *Report of Expenditures of Public Funds*
- NADC Form B-1A - *Special Campaign Statement*
- Supplemental Schedule E- *Unrestricted Expenditures*

Additional reporting forms are available from the Commission. **Forms may also be downloaded on to your personal computer from the Commission’s website at <http://nadc.nol.org>.** Click on the Campaign Finance tab. Then click on “Download Forms” and click on the form you need. Once downloaded, you may complete the form on your personal computer and print it. Certain forms must be signed in the presence of a notary public.

**IMPORTANT:** The Commission revised all of its prescribed reporting forms. Please be sure to use the current version of these reporting forms for the candidate’s campaign filings. Be sure that the form you are using pertains to the office you are seeking.

## SECTION XI

### **CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES – 2008 ELECTIONS Candidates for State Legislature**

- January 1, 2007                      Start of the primary election period.
- January 2, 2007                      **Abiding Candidates** with committees as of December 31, 2006 – Due date for the *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits*.

NOTE – failure to file an Affidavit to Abide is subject to late filing fees of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$750.

- January 2, 2007                      **Non-Abiding Candidates** with committees as of December 31, 2006 – Due date for the *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits*, along with an *Estimate of Expenditures for the Primary Election*.

NOTE – Unrestricted spending [expenditures for gifts of acknowledgement and for officeholder travel] should not be included in this Estimate of Expenditures.

NOTE – **Non-abiding candidates** must also file a *Candidate's Forty Percent Expenditure Affidavit* within 2 days after spending 40% or more of the spending limitation for the primary election period.

NOTE – Failure to file an Affidavit Not to Abide is subject to late filing fees of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$750.

NOTE – **All candidates** who form a committee after December 31, 2006, must also file either a *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* or a *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits* (including *Estimate of Expenditures* for the Primary) as an attachment to their committee's Statement of Organization.

NOTE – By law, a candidate committee is formed when a candidate raises, receives, or spends more than \$5,000 during a calendar year. A candidate committee must file a *Statement of Organization of a Political Committee* within 10 days after the candidate committee is formed.

- January 31, 2007                      **All Candidates** with committees as of December 31, 2006 – Due date for the 2006 Annual *Campaign Statement* (for the period ending December 31, 2006).

April 2, 2007                      **Incumbent Candidates** – Due date for the 2006 *Statement of Financial Interests* (covering calendar year 2006).

January 31, 2008                      **All candidates** with committees as of December 31, 2007 – Due date for the 2007 *Annual Campaign Statement* (for the period ending December 31, 2007).

NOTE – The reporting period for a committee's initial *Campaign Statement* begins with the day the committee first raised, received, or spent any funds. The reporting period for each subsequent *Campaign Statement* begins with the day following the end of the previous reporting period.

NOTE – By law, a candidate committee is formed when a candidate raises, receives, or spends more than \$5,000 during a calendar year. A candidate committee must file a *Statement of Organization of a Political Committee* within 10 days after the candidate committee is formed.

NOTE – **All candidates** who form a committee after December 31, 2007, must also file either a *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* or a *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits* (including *Estimate of Expenditures* for the Primary) as an attachment to their committee's *Statement of Organization*.

February and March 2008- The deadlines for candidates to file to have their names appear on the ballot are in February and March. Each candidate should contact the office of the Secretary of State to determine the filing deadline applicable to him or her.

NOTE – **All candidates** must present a copy of their *Statement of Financial Interests* for the preceding calendar year to the Secretary of State at the time they file to run for office.

NOTE – **All candidates with committees** must present a copy of their *Candidate's Affidavit to Abide by Spending Limits* or their *Candidate's Affidavit Not to Abide by Spending Limits* (whichever the candidate filed) to the Secretary of State at the time they file to run for office.

April 1, 2008                      **All Candidates** who filed to run for office during 2007 – Due Date for the 2007 *Statement of Financial Interests* (covering calendar year 2007).

NOTE – **All candidates** who filed during 2008 to run for office would have filed a *Statement of Financial Interests* covering 2007. These candidates need not file a new Statement of Financial Interests.

- April 13, 2008                      Start of the period for filing Statements of Organization within 2 days. Any candidate committee formed during the 30 days immediately preceding the election must file a Statement of Organization within 2 days.
- April 14, 2008                      **All primary election Candidates** with committees as of April 8, 2008 – Due Date for the 1<sup>st</sup> Primary Election *Campaign Statement* (for the period ending April 8, 2008).
- April 14, 2008                      **Non-Abiding Candidates** – Deadline to file an *Amended Estimate of Expenditures* for the primary election period.
- April 15, 2008                      **Abiding Candidates** – Deadline to file an *Application for Public Funds* for the primary election period.
- April 15, 2008                      **Abiding Candidates** who qualified for public funds for the primary election – Scheduled first day of distribution of public funds for the primary election period.
- April 29, 2008                      Start of the late contribution window for the primary election.
- NOTE – a “late contribution” is a contribution of \$1,000 or more received after the closing date of the last campaign statement required to be filed prior to an election (but before the date of the election). A *Report of Late Contribution* is due 2 days after the receipt of any “late contribution”.
- May 5, 2008                         **All primary election Candidates** with committees as of April 28, 2008 – Due Date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election *Campaign Statement* (for the period ending April 28, 2008).
- May 7, 2008                         Non-abiding candidates, due date for *Special Campaign Statement*, Form B-1A (Closing date of May 5, 2008). It must be **received** by the Commission on or before the due date.
- May 12, 2008                         End of the late contribution window for the primary election. End of period for filing Statements of Organization within 2 days.
- May 13, 2008                         **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**

- June 17, 2008                      End of the primary election period.
- June 18, 2008                      Start of the general election period.
- June 23, 2008                      **All primary election Candidates** with committees as of June 17, 2008 – Due Date for the Post Primary Election *Campaign Statement* (for the period ending June 17, 2008).

NOTE – **Any candidates** who did not advance to the general election are encouraged to dissolve their candidate committees as soon as possible after the primary election by filing a final campaign statement and a *Statement of Dissolution of a Political Committee*.

- June 23, 2008                      **Abiding Candidates** who received public funds for the primary election – Due Date for the Primary Election *Report of Expenditures of Public Funds* (for the period ending June 17, 2008), and Deadline for remittance of any unused public funds (unless permission is obtained from the NADC to hold these funds for use in the general election period).

- June 23, 2008                      **Non-Abiding Candidates** who advanced to the general election – Deadline for the *Estimate of Expenditures for the General Election*.

NOTE – **Non-abiding candidates** must file a *Candidate's Forty Percent Expenditure Affidavit* within 2 days after their expenditures for the general election equal or exceed 40% of the spending limit for the general election period.

- September 5, 2008                      **Non-Abiding Candidates** – Deadline to file an *Amended Estimate of Expenditures* for the general election period.

- September 8, 2008                      **Abiding Candidates** – Deadline to file an *Application for Public Funds* for the general election period.

- September 8, 2008                      **Abiding Candidates** who qualified for public funds for the general election – Scheduled first day of distribution of public funds for the general election period.

- October 5, 2008                      Start of the period for filing Statements of Organization within 2 days. See April 13<sup>th</sup> notation.

- October 6, 2008                      **All general election Candidates** with committees as of September 30, 2008 – Due Date for the 1<sup>st</sup> General Election *Campaign Statement* (for the period ending September 30, 2008).

October 21, 2008	Start of the late contribution window for the general election.
October 27, 2008	<b>All general election Candidates</b> with committees as of October 20, 2008 – Due date for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> General Election <i>Campaign Statement</i> (for the period ending October 20, 2008).
October 27, 2008	<b>Abiding Candidates</b> who received public funds for the general election – Due Date for the Pre General Election <i>Report of Expenditures of Public Funds</i> (for the period ending October 20, 2008).
October 29, 2008	Non-abiding candidates, due date for <i>Special Campaign Statement</i> , Form B-1A (Closing date of October 27, 2008). It must be <b>received</b> by the Commission on or before the due date.
November 3, 2008	End of the late contribution window for the general election. End of the period for filing Statements of Organization within 2 days.
November 4, 2008	<b>GENERAL ELECTION DAY</b>
December 31, 2008	End of the <u>general election period</u>
December 31, 2008	<b>Abiding Candidates</b> who received public funds for the general election – Due Date for the Post General Election <i>Report of Expenditures of Public Funds</i> (for the period October 21, 2008, through December 31, 2008), and deadline for the remittance of any unused public funds.
January 13, 2009	<b>All general election Candidates</b> with committees as of December 31, 2008 – Due Date for the Post General Election <i>Campaign Statement</i> (for the period ending December 31, 2008).

NOTE – **Any candidates** who were not elected are encouraged to dissolve their candidate committees as soon as possible after the general election by filing a final campaign statement and a *Statement of Dissolution of a Political Committee*.