

# FAQ

## Campaign Finance

- 1) **What are the qualifications required to be a candidate for election in Duval County?** Candidate must be registered voter of Duval County, must have been a resident for at least 183 days in the district he/she wishes to represent prior to qualifying; and may not hold any other elective office. (365 days for Mayor)
- 2) **Who may serve as a campaign treasurer?** Anyone may serve as treasurer.
- 3) **May a candidate serve as his/her own campaign treasurer?** Yes. If the candidate designates another person as his campaign treasurer, he should consider designating himself as the deputy treasurer. The candidate must be an appointed treasurer to sign campaign checks.
- 4) **What are the responsibilities of a candidate for reporting campaign fund activities?** Each candidate is personally responsible for compliance with F.S. Chapter 106 requirements to designate a campaign treasurer, maintain records of contributions and expenditures, and file sworn statements of contributions and expenditures and submit on time. (Treasurer reports DS-DE 12, DS-DE 13, DS-DE 14) Non-compliance will result in a fine of \$50.00 per day for the first 3 days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25% of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the report. The fines must be paid from the candidate's personal funds, not campaign funds (F.S. 106.07)
- 5) **Where can these forms be found?** These forms are created when preparing reports on the Financial Reporting System. (or visit: <http://elections.myflorida.com>)
- 6) **When is it appropriate to begin raising campaign funds?** A potential candidate may begin raising funds at any time after designating a campaign treasurer and bank depository and filing the DS-DE 9, DS-DE 84 with the local filing officer at the Supervisor of Elections office.
- 7) **If no monies are collected or spent during a reporting period, is a report required?** If there are no contributions or expenditures during a reporting period, a WAIVER OF REPORT (DS-DE 87) must be filed. (10/13)

- 8) **What are the maximum contribution limits in Florida? As of 11/1/13,** the maximum is now \$1000 for local candidates. A candidate may accept contributions from county political executive committees up to \$50,000 in aggregate and up to \$50,000 in aggregate from all other party committees and affiliated party committees sources (APCs).(F.S. 106.08( 2)(a))
- 9) **May contributions from outside Florida be accepted?** Yes, as long as they meet the maximum amount allowed by law.
- 10)**May contributions be deposited into an interest bearing checking account?**  
The law does not prohibit this. (F.S. 106.021)
- 11)**Are anonymous contributions permitted?** No. Candidates are required to maintain records of each contribution and source. Anonymous contributions may not be spent on the campaign. (F. S. 106.08)
- 12)**May cash contributions be accepted?** Yes. Cash and cashier check contributions of not more than \$50 may be accepted per each election. Money orders and travelers checks are considered checks. (F.S. 106.09)
- 13)**Do I have to itemize small contributions of \$5, \$10, \$50, etc.?** Yes. The law provides no exceptions for the reporting of contribution information, regardless of the size of the contribution. The full name and address of the contributor are also required. (Section 106.07(4)(a), F.S.)
- 14)**May two candidates have a fund-raiser together?** There are no restrictions on two candidates having a fund-raiser together as long as they adhere to all the requirements of Chapter 106.
- 15)**If a candidate has a fund-raiser and checks start coming in two weeks prior to the event, when would the funds have to be deposited?** All funds must be deposited prior to the end of the fifth (5th) business day following receipt thereof, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded. (F.S. 106.05)
- 16)**What is the cut off date for an opposed candidate to receive a contribution prior to an election?** Five (5) days prior to the election, no later than midnight on the Thursday prior to the Tuesday election. (F.S. 106.08)
- 17)**What is done with a contribution after a candidate withdraws, becomes unopposed or is elected or eliminated?** The contribution is returned to the person who gave it and shall not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate (Submit DS-DE 2 to SOE)

**18) May a candidate continue to accept contributions to campaign after losing or winning an election?** No. A candidate may not accept a contribution after he withdraws, is defeated, becomes unopposed, or is elected to office. (F. S. 106.08)

NOTE: A candidate may not obligate expenses from the campaign account unless there are sufficient funds on deposit to pay the full amount of the authorized expense.

**19) May contributions still be accepted after the candidate takes office?** No. A candidate has 90 days to dispose of funds in a campaign account after becoming unopposed, withdrawn or elected.

**20) A candidate is not complying with the Campaign Finance Law (F.S. 106) What steps may be taken?** Download a “Confidential Complaint Form” from the Florida Elections Commission at [www.fec.state.fl.us](http://www.fec.state.fl.us). Instructions for completing and submitting the form can be found on that website.