



July 11, 2016

Committee to Elect John Knox  
P O Box 48772  
Athens, Georgia 30604

RE: Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report Filing

Dear Pamela;

On June 30, 2016 you submitted the June 30 CCDR in our office, and we thank you for getting it in on time. You expressed concern about continuing to file the campaign contribution disclosure report with a zero balance. So I suggested that you file the Affidavit Not to Exceed \$2,500 in Contributions and/or Expenditures for the rest of the year since the balance is zero.

After speaking to a representative with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (GGTCF), I was told that if a candidate receive contributions and expenditures in the total of \$2500 or over that person will need to file a CCDR throughout their election cycle. **An Election Cycle means the period from the day of an election or appointment of a person to elective public office through and including the date of the next such election of a person to the same public office and shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office.** Your June 30 CCDR shows that your total contributions were \$14,260 and your total expenditures to date as \$14,260 so this is over the Not to Exceed \$2500 limit and this is why you cannot file the affidavit at this time.

I have included a copy of the Ethics Act explaining disclosure reports, and if you have any further questions, you may contact the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission at 404-463-1988 or website <http://ethics.ga.gov>.

Sincerely,

Cora Wright  
Interim Director of Elections and Voter Registration

Enclosure(s): 1

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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**§ 21-5-34. Disclosure reports**

- (a) (1) (A) The candidate or the chairperson or treasurer of each campaign committee organized to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate for any office and the chairperson or treasurer of every campaign committee designed to bring about the recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer or designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment, state-wide proposed question, or state-wide referendum shall electronically sign and file with the commission the required campaign contribution disclosure reports; provided, however, that public offices listed in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 shall be subject to signing and filing requirements as prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection, and recalls for such offices shall be subject to signing and filing requirements the same as required of candidates for such officers as prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection.
- (B) The chairperson or treasurer of each independent committee shall file the required disclosure reports with the commission.
- (2) (A) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state shall register with the commission and file campaign contribution disclosure reports as prescribed by this chapter or, in the case of any proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in a county or municipal election, shall register and file campaign disclosure reports with the same officials as prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection for candidates for county or municipal offices; provided, however, that such reports shall only be required if such campaign committee has received contributions which total more than \$500.00 or if such campaign committee has made expenditures which total more than \$500.00. All advertising pertaining to referendums shall identify the principal officer of such campaign committee by listing or stating the name and title of the principal officer.
- (B) If a campaign committee is required to file a report with the commission under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, such report shall be electronically filed. Any such report shall be filed 15 days prior to the date of the election; and a final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of the election year.
- (3) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the election superintendent in the county of election. Upon receipt of any such report, the election superintendent shall cause such report to be available for inspection and copying in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The election superintendent shall transmit a copy of each such report to the commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of the grace period. No fine, fee or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on a candidate for the failure of the election superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report.
- (4) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the municipal clerk in the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality; provided, however, that a municipality and a county may enter into an agreement whereby such candidates, chairpersons, or treasurers shall file the required disclosure reports with the county election superintendent instead. Upon receipt of any such report,



the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county election superintendent, as applicable, shall cause such report to be available for inspection and copying in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county election superintendent, as applicable, shall transmit a copy of each such report to the commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of the grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on a candidate for the failure of the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county, or county election superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report.

(b) (1) All reports shall list the following:

- (A) As to any contribution of more than \$100.00, its amount and date of receipt, the election for which the contribution has been accepted and allocated, along with the name and mailing address of the contributor, and, if the contributor is an individual, that individual's occupation and the name of his or her employer. Such contributions shall include, but shall not be limited to, the purchase of tickets for events such as dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar fundraising events coordinated for the purpose of raising campaign contributions for the reporting person;
- (B) As to any expenditure of more than \$100.00, its amount and date of expenditure, the name and mailing address of the recipient receiving the expenditure, and, if that recipient is an individual, that individual's occupation and the name of his or her employer and the general purpose of the expenditure;
- (C) When a contribution consists of a loan, advance, or other extension of credit, the report shall also contain the name of the lending institution or party making the advance or extension of credit and the names, mailing addresses, occupations, and places of employment of all persons having any liability for repayment of the loan, advance, or extension of credit; and, if any such persons shall have a fiduciary relationship to the lending institution or party making the advance or extension of credit, the report shall specify such relationship;
- (D) Total contributions received and total expenditures shall be reported for an election cycle as follows:
  - (i) The first report of an election cycle shall list the cash on hand brought forward from the previous election cycle, if any, and the total contributions received during the period covered by the report;
  - (ii) Subsequent reports shall list the total contributions received during the period covered by the report and the cumulative total of contributions received during the election cycle;
  - (iii) The first report of an election cycle shall list the total expenditures made during the period covered by the report;
  - (iv) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the election cycle, and net balance on hand; and
  - (v) If a public officer seeks reelection to the same public office, or if the public officer is a member of the General Assembly seeking reelection in another district as a result of redistricting, the net balance on hand at the end of the current election cycle shall be carried forward to the first report of the applicable new election cycle;
- (E) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee or independent committee making a contribution of more than \$100.00;



- (F) Any investment made with funds of a campaign committee, independent committee, or political action committee and held outside such committee's official depository account during each reporting period for which an investment exists or a transaction applying to an identifiable investment is made. The report shall identify the name of the entity or person with whom such investment was made, the initial and any subsequent amount of such investment if such investment was made during the reporting period, and any profit or loss from the sale of such investment occurred during such reporting period; and
- (G) Total debt owed on the last day of the reporting period.
- (2) Each report shall be in such form as will allow for the separate identification of a contribution or contributions which are less than \$100.00 but which become reportable due to the receipt of an additional contribution or contributions which when combined with such previously received contribution or contributions cumulatively equal or exceed \$100.00.
- (c) Candidates or campaign committees which accept contributions, make expenditures designed to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate, or have filed a declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions pursuant to subsection (g) of Code Section 21-5-30 shall file campaign contribution disclosure reports in compliance with the following schedule:
  - (1) In each nonelection year on January 31 and June 30;
  - (2) In each election year:
    - (A) On January 31, March 31, June 30, September 30, October 25, and December 31;
    - (B) Six days before any run-off primary or election in which the candidate is listed on the ballot; and
    - (C) During the period of time between the last report due prior to the date of any election for which the candidate is qualified and the date of such election, all contributions of \$1,000.00 or more shall be reported within two business days of receipt and also reported on the next succeeding regularly scheduled campaign contribution disclosure report;
  - (3) If the candidate is a candidate in a special primary or special primary runoff, 15 days prior to the special primary and six days prior to the special primary runoff; and
  - (4) If the candidate is a candidate in a special election or special election runoff, 15 days prior to the special election and six days prior to the special election runoff.

All persons or entities required to file reports shall have a five-day grace period in filing the required reports, except that the grace period shall be two days for required reports prior to run-off primaries or run-off elections, and no grace period shall apply to contributions required to be reported within two business days. Reports required to be filed within two business days of a contribution shall be reported by facsimile or electronic transmission. Any facsimile filing shall also have an identical electronic filing within five business days following the transmission of such facsimile filing. Each report required in the election year shall contain cumulative totals of all contributions which have been received and all expenditures which have been made in support of the campaign in question and which are required, or previously have been required, to be reported.
- (d) In the event any candidate covered by this chapter has no opposition in either a primary or a general election and receives no contribution of more than \$100.00, such candidate shall only be required to make the initial and final report as required under this chapter.
- (d.1)(1) In the event a candidate for nomination or election to a public office listed in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of a campaign committee organized to bring about the nomination or election of such candidate signs and files with the appropriate official specified by paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section a written notice that such candidate or campaign committee does not intend to accept during such election cycle a combined total of contributions exceeding