

---

# Washington State Campaign Regulations

---

## The Public Disclosure Law

- **Why Campaign Disclosure Requirements:** When Washington voters adopted Initiative 276 in 1972, they stated that the people wanted and had the right to know the financial affairs of candidates and elected officials in order to gauge whether a conflict may exist with government duties. The voters also declared that financing of election campaigns should be known and reported to the people.
- **Reporting Required:** To meet these mandates, elected officials, candidates, and political committees are required to file public disclosure reports with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). The Commission is located in Olympia.
- **Contact Information:**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Public Disclosure Commission | Toll free: (877) 601.2828   |
| 711 Capitol Way Room 206     | (360) 753.1111 or fax (360) 753.1112                              |
| P.O. Box 40908               | Web Address: <a href="http://www.pdc.wa.gov">www.pdc.wa.gov</a>   |
| Olympia, WA 98504-0908       | Email address: <a href="mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov">pdc@pdc.wa.gov</a> |
- **Register within 2 Weeks:** Generally, candidates must register within two weeks of becoming a candidate and committees must register with PDC within two weeks of being organized.
- **Required Reports:** Reporting requirements for candidate campaigns and political committees vary according to the amount of money that will be raised and spent by the campaign.
- **Materials Needed:** Information about disclosure requirements is available on the 2007 Candidate Materials CD which is provided to each candidate at the time of filing a Declaration of Candidacy or from the PDC. Disclosure information can also be found on the PDC website: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov). Specific questions should be directed to the PDC office listed above.

## Where to File PDC Reports

- **Olympia:** The Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) is filed only with PDC in Olympia. Additionally, all original campaign disclosure reports (the “C” series) are filed with PDC in Olympia.
- **Electronic Filing Required at \$10,000:** Candidates or political committees that expended \$10,000 or more on the last campaign for the same office or expect to spend \$10,000 or more on the current campaign must file campaign finance reports electronically. (RCW 42.17.3691)  

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Note | Campaign finance reports filed with PDC electronically need not also be filed with the County Auditor. (RCW 42.17.080 (9)) |
|------|--|
- **Electronic Filing Exceptions:** If the candidate or campaign manually completes a report, the candidate must file a copy with the County Auditor in the county where the candidate resides. An example is the C1 - Candidate registration form.
- **Do Not Fax Reports to PDC:** Mailed reports are considered “filed” as of the postmark date.

## Where to Obtain Forms

- **Materials Needed:** Forms, instructions manuals, and training videos are available on the 2007 Candidate Materials CD available at the Kitsap County Auditor’s Office Elections Division or at the Public Disclosure Commission office in Olympia.
- **Web or Email:** Information and forms are also on the PDC web site: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov). Software for computerized record keeping and reporting is available free of charge from PDC. Use the web, email or call the PDC office for details.