



## Campaign Finance Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of State assembled this list from answers we have provided for many years. Because these Frequently Asked Questions and the answers are not a replacement for the law or the regulations, we have provided citations with the relevant links. Please keep in mind:

- Sections 1621 – 1642 refer to the Pennsylvania Election Code, which may be found at 25 P.S. §§ 3241 – 3260.
- A copy of the Campaign Finance Reporting Law containing sections 1621 – 1642 and is online at:  
[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_160329\\_687771\\_0\\_0\\_18/law.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_160329_687771_0_0_18/law.pdf)
- For questions, call (717) 787-5280 or email questions to [ra-stcampaignfinance@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-stcampaignfinance@state.pa.us).

### Definitions

#### *Candidate*

##### **When do I become a candidate?**

Several scenarios trigger a candidacy:

The candidate or the candidate's political committee:

- receives a contribution or
- makes an expenditure or
- gives his/her consent for any other person or committee to receive a contribution or make an expenditure to influence his/her nomination or election to office.

Please note that the candidacy exists whether or not the individual has announced his or her intention to seek a specific office at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made; or

The candidate files nomination petitions or nomination papers. See § 1621(a).

For information on candidates for state and local party committees, look under the “registration” category under “candidacy” below.

Write-in candidates should contact the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation and/or the county election office.

#### *Contribution*

##### **What is an election contribution?**

A contribution includes:

