

Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board
Ballot Issue PAC

Committees must comply with *Code of Iowa* Chapter 68A. Iowa Code 68A contains the campaign regulations enforced by the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. The Board is an independent state agency that enforces the laws related to activities of political committees. Other statutes concerning the board are found in Iowa Code Chapter 68B.

Campaign Finance Disclosure

If an individual or group receives contributions, including loans, makes expenditures, or incurs debt in excess of \$750, a committee must be organized and a statement of organization (form DR-1) must be filed with the Board within 10 days after the \$750 threshold is reached, regardless of whether the committee is partially or wholly self-financed. The candidate is then responsible for filing campaign disclosure reports (DR-2 and appropriate schedules) on or before the due dates in *Code* Section 68A.402. A committee is required to continue filing disclosure reports until a Statement of Dissolution (DR-3) is filed with the Board. It is important to file the report on or before the due date as civil and criminal penalties may be imposed for latefiled reports. The reports disclose campaign money and other items donated or spent by the candidate.

Common Campaign Violations to Avoid

- 1) A Ballot Issue PAC may accept contributions or use the resources of any corporation, bank, savings and loan, credit union, or insurance company (*Code* Section 68A.503). However, any organization giving in excess of \$750.00 may only do so once per calendar year and must file a One-Time Contribution form (DR-OTC) with The Board (Iowa Administrative Code 351-4.35).
- 2) A PAC must attribute the source on any printed political advertising. If a PAC has registered a committee by filing the Statement of Organization, the words "paid for by" and the name of the committee are required to be included on the material. However, if a committee has not yet registered or if a Form DR-SFA has not been filed, the attribution must include the full name and address of the party responsible for the material. (*Code* Section 68A.405). The attribution must appear on all political advertising including newspaper advertisements, billboards, brochures, letters, posters and Web sites. Yard signs placed in a residential yard that are 32 square feet or less are exempt. Items too small to include the attribution, such as buttons or pens, are also exempt.
- 3) A PAC must make sure that campaign signs are not placed on corporate property or any governmental property including the public right-of-way between the sidewalk and the curb.
- 4) A PAC may only use campaign funds for campaign purposes. Campaign funds may not be used for personal benefit or for the benefit of any other candidate's campaign (*Code* Sections 68A.301-68A.304). Campaign funds must be kept in a separate account in a financial institution located in Iowa (*Code* Section 68A.203)

Assistance

Campaign finance laws, rules, advisory opinions, blank forms, brochures and other useful information may be obtained on the Board's Web site at www.iowa.gov/ethics. Call the Board at (515) 281-4104 with questions or concerns about a campaign finance issue.

**STATEWIDE AND LOCAL BALLOT ISSUE COMMITTEE
REPORTING DATES**

**All Reports Due 5 Days Prior to an Election Must be on
File with the Board by 4:30 p.m. on Due Date**

Election Year Reporting Dates

<u>Report Due</u>	<u>Covering Period</u>
5 days prior to each election	Date of initial financial activity or previous report through 10 days prior to election
May 19	Date of initial financial activity or previous report through May 14
July 19	Date of initial financial activity or previous report through July 14
October 19	Date of initial financial activity or previous report through October 14
Jan 19 (next calendar yr)	Previous report through December 31

Non Election Year Reporting Dates

<u>Report Due</u>	<u>Covering Period</u>
January 19 (next calendar yr)	January 1 through December 31 of non-election year