
CHAPTER 16

CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGNS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Filing for Candidacy.....	505
Filing Officers.....	505
Aurora – Candidate Filing System	505
Deadlines for Declaring Candidacy.....	506
Judicial Candidates:	506
Non-Judicial Candidates:	506
Presidential Preference Primary – Major Party Candidates::	506
Independent Candidates for President of the United States:	507
Filing a Declaration of Candidacy	507
Using a Nickname on the Ballot	508
Candidates with the Same Surname	508
Changing Name on the Ballot.....	508
Candidate Filing fees	508
Judicial Questionnaire	509
Candidate Photographs.....	509
Withdrawal of Candidacy.....	510
Recission of a Withdrawal of Candidacy	510
Return of Filing Fees	510
Write-In Candidates	510
Written Challenges for Qualifications of Candidates	511
Conducting a Campaign.....	512
Code of fair campaign practices	512
Use of the Term “Re-Elect” and Implying Incumbency	512
Persuasive Polls	512
Disclosures On Campaign Materials	512
Campaign Signs.....	513
Judicial Candidates	514
What About the Money?	514
Non-Judicial Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS).....	514
Judicial Statement of Financial Disclosures.....	515
Appointed Officials	515

Special Filing Requirements for Federal Candidates	515
Contribution Defined.....	515
Campaign Expenses Defined	516
Expenditures Defined.....	516
Candidate Defined	516
Reporting Campaign Contributions and Expenses	516
Loans and Written Acknowledgments	517
Reporting Contributions in Excess of \$10,000 Before an Election Year	517
Reporting Bank Interest	517
Filing Contributions and Expenses (C&E) Reports.....	517
Filing Paper Financial Reports.....	518
Penalties for Failure to File or for Filing a Late C&E Report.....	518
Waiver of Civil Penalties	518
Contribution Limits	519
Contributions Made in the Name of Another Person are Prohibited.....	519
Campaign Accounts	519
Anonymous Contributions	520
Personal use of Campaign Funds	520
In-Kind Contributions	520
Restrictions on Acceptance of Contributions Prior to Legislative Session.....	520
Completion of a Campaign	521
Notice of Completion of Campaign.....	521
Disposition of Unspent Contributions	521
Frequently Asked Campaign Finance Questions.....	521

CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGNS

Filing for Candidacy

Filing Officers

The Secretary of State is the filing officer for all statewide offices, as well as those offices that represent districts comprising more than one county. The County Clerk, or the Registrar of Voters in Clark and Washoe counties, is the filing officer for county and township offices, including offices elected from districts completely within one county or part of one county [NRS 293.185](#). The City Clerk is the filing officer for offices that are elected at municipal elections [NRS 293C.175](#).

The Secretary of State is the filing officer for all federal offices except for United States House of Representatives in Districts 1 and 3, who file with the Clark County Registrar of Voters office.

Note: [NRS 293.1275](#) prescribes the exceptions in counting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays when computing Nevada election law compliance deadlines.

- Except as otherwise provided in this section, in computing any period of time specified for the execution of an act or event in this title, Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and holidays proclaimed by the Governor must be counted;
- If the last day limited for filing any paper mentioned in this title falls on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holidays and holidays proclaimed by the Governor, the period so limited must expire on the following business day at 5 p.m.;
- Saturdays, Sundays and holidays must not be counted if the provision specifying the period states that:
 - Any such days are excluded; or
 - The period is measured by working days.

Aurora – Candidate Filing System

Filing officers are now required to administer candidate filings using the Secretary of State's [Aurora - Candidate Filing System](#). This system allows filing officers from across the state to create, submit and administer candidate filings using a secure Internet application.

Additionally, during candidate filing periods, a public-facing link is available for election officials to share with candidates filing in their office. To complete their candidate filings, candidates can either appear in person or by mail. To complete a filing by mail, a candidate must fill out their candidate filing documents, have them notarized and mail them, along with any other required documentation, to the appropriate filing office.

New candidates and appointees can consult the Secretary of State's [step-by-step process on how to create an Aurora account](#) and visit our [How to Guide for C&E Reports](#).

Deadlines for Declaring Candidacy

Judicial Candidates:

The first day of candidate filing for judicial candidates is the first Monday in January of the year in which the election is to be held and not later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday after the first Monday in January [NRS 293.177](#).

Non-Judicial Candidates:

The first day of candidate filing for non-judicial candidates is the first Monday in March of the year in which the election is to be held and not later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday after the first Monday in March [NRS 293.177](#).

Presidential Preference Primary – Major Party Candidates:

If a person who is a qualified candidate to be a major political party's nominee for President of the United States wants to appear on the ballot for a presidential preference primary election, that person must file a declaration with the Secretary of State not earlier than October 1 and not later than 5 p.m. on October 15 of the year immediately preceding the presidential preference primary election [NRS 298.660](#).

Candidates of a major political party must designate their political party nomination on an application to register to vote in the State of Nevada or in any other State, no later than December 31 preceding the closing filing date for that election and ending on the date of that election whether or not the person's previous registration was still effective at the time of the change in party designation.

A person may be a candidate for a major political party for partisan office in an election if:

- The person's designation of political party or political party affiliation was changed as a result of a transaction with an automatic voter registration agency during the automatic voter registration process and the person did not intentionally change his or her designation of political party or political party affiliation during the transaction; or
- The person has not previously registered to vote in this State and submits a new application to register to vote designating a political party affiliation with a major political party before the deadline set forth in [NRS 293.177](#) for filing a declaration of candidacy, unless the designation of his or her affiliation on the application filed in this State is filed during the period set forth in [NRS 293.176](#) and has been changed from the designation of political party or political party affiliation on an application filed in any other state.

A person who cancels his or her voter registration and submits a new application to register to vote may not be a candidate of a major political party for partisan office in an election if the person changed his or her designation of political party or political party affiliation when cancelling his or her voter registration and submitting a new application.

Independent Candidates for President of the United States:

An independent candidate for the Office of the President of the United States may file a declaration of candidacy and pay the statutory filing fee of \$250.00 beginning January 2, and not later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday in August in each year in which a Presidential Election is to be held [NRS 298.109](#).

In addition to filing for candidacy and paying any required statutory filing fees, independent candidates are required to complete the independent petition process (see Chapter 17 of this manual) in order to qualify for candidacy.

Filing a Declaration of Candidacy

A person may file a declaration of candidacy pursuant to [NRS 293.177](#), [NRS 293C.145](#) or [NRS 293C.175](#) by submitting the notarized filing documents by mail, in person, or , if authorized by the appropriate filing officer, virtually using a remote technology system.

If the filing officer provides the option to file a declaration of candidacy virtually using a remote technology system:

- The candidate must have paper copies of the documents during the virtual meeting and pay the filing fee required by [NRS 293.193](#) before the virtual meeting.
- Each of the filing documents must be filled out and signed by the candidate and then held up to the camera for confirmation by the filing officer.
- Upon completion of the virtual meeting, the candidate must mail the original filing documents to the filing officer.
- The filing date for the candidate is the date on which the filing documents are received by the filing officer, which must not be later than the deadline set forth in [NRS 293.177](#), [NRS 293C.145](#) or [NRS 293C.175](#) for filing a declaration of candidacy.

A filing officer is not responsible for notifying a person filing a declaration of candidacy of any errors in the filing documents or filing fee. If any errors in the filing documents or filing fee are not corrected by 5 p.m. on the deadline set forth in [NRS 293.177](#), [NRS 293C.145](#) or [NRS 293C.175](#), the name of the person will not be printed on a ballot as a candidate.

In accordance with [NRS 281.055](#), a person may not file a declaration of candidacy or other nomination papers for more than one elective office of any special district. This does not prohibit a person from serving in more than one special district in a capacity other than elective office.

Using a Nickname on the Ballot

A nickname of not more than ten (10) letters may be used on the ballot; however, it must be in quotation marks and appear immediately before the candidate's surname. A nickname must not indicate any political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation and must not be the name of any person, living or dead, whose reputation is known on a statewide, nationwide, or worldwide basis. The nickname must not, in any way, deceive a voter regarding the person or principles for which he or she is voting [NRS 293.2565](#).

Candidates with the Same Surname

If two or more candidates have the same given name or surname so similar as to likely cause confusion and neither of the candidates is an incumbent, then the middle names or middle initials, if any, must be included on the ballot. If one of the candidates is an incumbent, the name of the incumbent must be listed first and the word "incumbent" must appear next to the name of the candidate who is the incumbent [NRS 293.2565](#).

Changing Name on the Ballot

A candidate may change the way his or her name will appear on the ballot by filing a written request to amend the declaration of candidacy. The candidate must file the request in person with the filing officer with whom the candidate filed his or her declaration of candidacy not later than 5 p.m. on the last day to file for office [NAC 293.081](#).

The surname of the candidate printed on a ballot may be his or her original surname or married surname. A candidate may not request that a new modification or combination of his or her original surname and married surname appear on a ballot [NRS 293.2565](#).

Candidate Filing fees

United States Senator (Federal)	\$500
U.S. Representative in Congress (Federal)	\$300
Governor	\$300
Lieutenant Governor	\$200
Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Controller, Attorney General	\$200
State Senate or Assembly	\$100
Justice of the Supreme Court (AOC)	\$300
State Board of Education	\$200
Court of Appeals (AOC)	\$200
District Court Judge (AOC)	\$150
Justice of the Peace (AOC)	\$100
Any County Office	\$100
Hospital or Hospital District	\$30
Constable or other Town or township Office	\$30
Any District Office other than District Court Judge	\$30
University Board of Regents	\$0
Any Office which Receives No Compensation	\$0

No filing fee is required from a candidate for an office if the office holder receives no compensation [NRS 293.193](#).

An additional fee, not to exceed \$5.00, may be added by county clerks or clerks of the court (only) in addition to any candidate filing fees, pursuant to [NRS 19.013\(2\)\(b\)](#). If a county clerk elects to charge and collect an additional fee for filing and recording a declaration of candidacy for a public office, the county clerk shall:

- Charge the additional fee for all public offices for which a declaration of candidacy is filed with the county clerk.
- Notify the Secretary of State using electronic mail or mail not later than 15 days before the start of the candidate filing period in an election year.

The written notification must include, without limitation:

- That the additional fee is being charged and collected;
- The amount of the additional fee; and
- The total filing fee to be collected for each public office.

Judicial Questionnaire

A judicial candidate, who is not the current seated incumbent for the office in which they filed for, **must** complete and file a judicial questionnaire prescribed by the Nevada Supreme Court, and submit it along with their declaration of candidacy when filing for office [NRS 293.179](#).

The questionnaire must include:

- The education of the candidate; and
- The qualifications possessed by the candidate which are relevant to the judicial office for which the candidate is filing.

An incumbent for judicial office **may** complete the judicial questionnaire and submit it with their declaration of candidacy when filing for office.

Upon receipt of the completed judicial questionnaire, the clerk must post the questionnaire on the Internet website of the clerk's office.

Candidate Photographs

A candidate, the spouse of a candidate or a member of the campaign staff of a candidate may submit a photograph of the candidate to the Office of the Secretary of State to be uploaded to the Internet website of the Secretary of State beginning on the first Monday in March preceding the election and not later than 5 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the day of the election. Any photograph submitted after 5 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the date of the election will be uploaded to the Internet website of the Secretary of State, if practicable.

The Office of the Secretary of State will not contact any candidate who does not submit a photograph to obtain such a photograph.

The Office of the Secretary of State will:

- Only accept digital photographs; and
- Crop each photograph to approximately 2 inches above the head of the candidate and 8 inches below the chin of the candidate.

The Office of the Secretary of State may, at the discretion of the Office, reject a photograph of a candidate submitted pursuant to this section for any reason, including, without limitation, if the photograph is offensive; contains nudity, alcohol or drug paraphernalia; contains writing or symbols that indicate allegiance to any group or organization; or contains persons or objects other than the candidate.

Withdrawal of Candidacy

A withdrawal of candidacy must be in writing and be presented by the candidate, in person to the filing officer, within seven (7) days after the last day of candidate filing, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

If the withdrawal of candidacy is submitted in a timely manner, it shall be deemed effective after the seventh (7) day, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays [NRS 293.202](#).

Recission of a Withdrawal of Candidacy

A recission of withdrawal of candidacy must be in writing and be presented by the candidate, in person to the filing officer, within the seven (7) day withdrawal period, after the last day of candidate filing, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays [NRS 293.202](#).

Return of Filing Fees

If an independent candidate fails to receive enough signatures on a petition to appear on the ballot, the filing fee of the independent candidate must be returned to the candidate. The filing officer to whom the fee was paid must return the fee within ten (10) business days after the date on which a final determination is made that the candidate did not receive enough signatures [NRS 293.194](#).

Write-In Candidates

Nevada law prohibits write-in candidacies or write-in votes of any kind [NRS 293.270](#).

Written Challenges for Qualifications of Candidates

[NRS 293.182](#) provides the requirements for challenging the qualifications of a candidate for office. After a person files a declaration of candidacy to be a candidate for an office, and not later than 5 days after the last day the person may withdraw his or her candidacy pursuant to [NRS 293.202](#), an elector may file with the filing officer for the office a written challenge of the person on the grounds that the person fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State. Before accepting the challenge from the elector, the filing officer shall notify the elector that if the challenge is found by a court to be frivolous, the elector may be required to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who is being challenged.

A challenge filed must:

- Indicate each qualification the person fails to meet;
- Have attached all documentation and evidence supporting the challenge; and
- Be in the form of an affidavit, signed by the elector under penalty of perjury.

Upon receipt of a challenge:

- The Secretary of State shall immediately transmit the challenge to the Attorney General; or
- A filing officer other than the Secretary of State shall immediately transmit the challenge to the district attorney.

If the Attorney General or district attorney determines that probable cause exists to support the challenge, the Attorney General or district attorney shall, not later than 5 working days after receiving the challenge, petition a court of competent jurisdiction to order the person to appear before the court. Upon receipt of such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the person to appear before the court at a hearing, at a time and place to be fixed by the court in the order, to show cause why the challenge is not valid. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the person. The court shall give priority to such proceedings over all other matters pending with the court, except for criminal proceedings.

If, at the hearing, the court determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the challenge is valid or that the person otherwise fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State, or if the person fails to appear at the hearing, the person is subject to the provisions of [NRS 293.2045](#).

If, at the hearing, the court determines that the challenge is frivolous, the court may order the elector who filed the challenge to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who was challenged.

Conducting a Campaign

Code of fair campaign practices

The Code of Fair Campaign Practices is a voluntary code to which a candidate may subscribe. It states certain principles by which a fair and ethical campaign should be run. A candidate who subscribes to the Code may indicate so in his or her campaign literature. A copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is provided to each candidate at the time of filing [NRS 294A.290](#).

Use of the Term “Re-Elect” and Implying Incumbency

Nevada law prohibits a candidate’s use of the term “re-elect” in any campaign materials or statements unless that candidate is the incumbent [NRS 294A.330](#). Nevada law also prohibits a candidate’s use of other words that falsely imply the candidate is the incumbent [NRS 294A.340](#).

Persuasive Polls

If a candidate, political party, committee sponsored by a political party, or committee for political action requests or compensates a person to conduct or cause to be conducted a persuasive poll or produce an automated or computerized message by telephone concerning a candidate, the person conducting the poll shall disclose, at the end of the poll, the name and telephone number of the candidate, political party, committee sponsored by a political party, or committee for political action that requested or compensated the person for the poll [NRS 294A.341](#). Each violation is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 [NRS 294A.343](#).

The term “persuasive poll” is defined as the canvassing of persons, by means other than an established method of scientific sampling, by asking questions or offering information concerning a candidate which is designed to provide information that is negative or derogatory about the candidate or the candidate’s family. The term does not include a poll that is conducted only to measure the public’s opinion about or reaction to an issue, fact or theme [NRS 294A.341](#).

Disclosures On Campaign Materials

A candidate, committee for political action, political party, or committee sponsored by a political party that expends more than \$100 for the purpose of financing a communication through any television or radio broadcast, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising shall disclose on the communication that it was paid for by the candidate, committee for political action, political party, or committee sponsored by a political party [NRS 294A.348](#).

If a communication is approved by a candidate, in addition to disclosing on the communication that it was paid for by the candidate, the communication must state that the candidate approved the communication and disclose the street address, telephone number, and internet address, if any, of the person, committee for political action, political party, or committee sponsored by a political party that paid for the communication [NRS 294A.348](#).

A candidate, committee for political action, political party, or committee sponsored by a political party that has an internet website available for viewing by the general public or that sends out an electronic mailing to more than 500 people that: (1) advocates expressly the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or group of candidates; or (2) solicits a contribution through any television or radio broadcast, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising, shall disclose on the internet website or electronic mailing, as applicable, the name of the candidate, committee for political action, political party, or committee sponsored by a political party [NRS 294A.348](#).

Disclosures and statements must be clear and conspicuous, and easy to read or hear, as applicable. The disclosure requirements do not apply to any statement or communication appearing on a cap, hat, shirt, or other article of clothing, regardless of its cost. They also do not apply to any item that has a retail cost per item of less than \$5, including any button, pen, pencil, ruler, magnet, key tag, emery board, comb, letter opener, can holder, bottle opener, jar opener, balloon, or piece of candy. However, the \$5 per item retail value exclusion does not apply to any door hanger, bumper sticker, yard sign, or advertising through a television or radio broadcast, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, or mailing [NRS 294A.349](#).

Campaign Signs

Local and state laws govern the use of campaign signs. Candidates should review county and city ordinances for the rules regarding campaign signs. In addition, state law governs campaign signs placed within highway rights-of-way. Please refer to [NRS 405.030](#) and [NRS 405.110](#) for specific prohibitions, the removal policy by the Nevada Department of Transportation, and possible penalties.

State law sets time restrictions on the placement of campaign signs along interstate and primary highways. Campaign signs must not be placed next to these highways earlier than sixty (60) days before a primary election and must be removed no later than thirty (30) days after the election. A successful candidate in the primary election may display his or her campaign signs through the following general election, removing them thirty (30) days later [NRS 410.400\(4\)](#).

For more information or to report a violation, please contact the Nevada Department of Transportation at (775) 888-7000.

Remember to always seek permission of property owners prior to placing campaign signs on private property. The posting of campaign signs on public utility poles is prohibited [NRS 704.638](#).

Judicial Candidates

The Revised Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct included in the Supreme Court Rules imposes several requirements on judicial candidates. If you are a candidate for judicial office, please refer to the [Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct](#) for more details or contact the Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics.

All candidates for judicial office must file Contributions and Expenses (C&E) Reports with the Secretary of State. Please refer to the “What About the Money?” section of this guide for more information. Additionally, judicial candidates must file a Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), not the Secretary of State. Please refer to the FDS section of this guide for further information.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ETHICS

P.O. BOX 18123

RENO, NEVADA 89511

PHONE (775) 687- 4017 FAX (775) 448-9704

ncjdinfo@judicial.nv.gov

Note: In 2023, the Nevada legislature amended [NRS 4.010\(3\)](#), citing any justice of the peace who is not licensed or admitted to practice law in the courts of this State at the time of his or her election or appointment must pass an examination prescribed by the Nevada Supreme Court within 18 months after taking the oath of office. The amended provision of [NRS 4.010](#) does not apply to a justice of the peace who holds that office on July 1, 2023.

What About the Money?

State law requires that all C&E Reports and Financial Disclosure Statements be filed electronically with the Secretary of State’s office using the [AURORA, Campaign Finance Disclosure](#) system.

New candidates and appointees can review the Secretary of State’s [step-by-step process on how to create an Aurora account](#).

Non-Judicial Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS)

Nevada law requires a candidate for a non-judicial public office to electronically file a Candidate Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) with the Secretary of State if the candidate will be entitled to receive annual compensation of \$6,000 or more for serving in the office the candidate is seeking. Candidates for the office of Legislator must file a FDS regardless of compensation. The Candidate FDS is due 10 days after the last day to file a declaration of candidacy, for non-judicial candidates.

Additionally, non-judicial candidates elected to office must file an FDS by January 15th of each year they hold office, including the last year of their term [NRS 281.561](#).

Note: Failure to file an FDS for non-judicial candidates is punishable by civil penalty up to **\$2,000** [NRS 281.581](#).

Judicial Statement of Financial Disclosures

Judicial candidates are required to file a Statement of Financial Disclosure with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on or before March 31st, for the preceding calendar year of the judge's term.

The Judicial Statement of Financial Disclosure is a public document and filed with the State Court Administrator at the AOC. You may find additional information regarding the filing of the Judicial Statement of Financial Disclosure in the Nevada Revised Code of Judicial Conduct as well as [NRS 281.561](#) and [NRS 281.571](#).

A judicial officer who is appointed to fill the unexpired term of a predecessor or to fill a newly-created judgeship is required to file a Judicial Statement of Financial Disclosure pursuant to the Nevada Revised Code of Judicial Conduct ([NRS 281.559\(1\)\(a\)](#)).

To access the Judicial Statement of Financial Disclosure form, click [here](#).

Appointed Officials

An appointed public officer who is entitled to receive annual compensation of \$6,000 or more for serving in the office the candidate is seeking, or who is appointed to the serve as a legislator, must file a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Secretary of State. The Appointment Financial Disclosure Statement is due not later than thirty (30) days after the public officer's date of appointment [NRS 281.559\(1\)\(a\)](#).

- All public officers appointed to office are entitled to receive \$6,000 or more annually.
- All appointments to state legislature.
- All public officers appointed to fill the unexpired term of an elected or appointed public officer.

Special Filing Requirements for Federal Candidates

Candidates for federal office are required to file campaign finance reports with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). All federal candidates are encouraged to contact the FEC for other requirements.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
1050 FIRST STREET, NE.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463
PHONE: (800) 424-9530 OR (202) 694-1000
TTY: (202) 219-3336
EMAIL: info@fec.gov

Contribution Defined

"Contribution" means a gift, loan, conveyance, deposit, payment, transfer, or distribution of money or of anything of value other than the services of a volunteer [NRS 294A.007](#).

Campaign Expenses Defined

“Campaign Expenses” means all expenses incurred by a candidate for a campaign, including, without limitation: (a) office expenses; (b) expenses related to volunteers; (c) expenses related to travel; (d) expenses related to advertising; (e) expenses related to paid staff; (f) expenses related to consultants; (g) expenses related to polling; (h) expenses related to special events; (i) expenses related to a legal defense fund; (j) contributions made to another candidate, a nonprofit corporation that is registered or required to be registered pursuant to [NRS 294A.225](#), a committee for political action that is registered or required to be registered pursuant to [NRS 294A.230](#), or a committee for the recall of a public officer that is registered or required to be registered pursuant to [NRS 294A.250](#); (k) fees for filing declarations of candidacy; and (l) repayment or forgiveness of a loan. The definition of “Campaign Expenses” also includes expenditures as defined in [NRS 294A.0075](#) and the disposal of any unspent contributions [NRS 294A.0035](#).

Expenditures Defined

“Expenditures” means money paid for advertising or communication on television, radio, billboards or posters, in newspapers or other periodicals or by mail, and all other money paid to advocate expressly the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or group of candidates or the passage or defeat of a clearly identified question or group of questions on the ballot. This includes any payments made to a candidate or to certain relatives of a candidate pursuant to [NRS 294A.0075](#).

Candidate Defined

“Candidate” means any person: (1) who files a declaration of candidacy; (2) whose name appears on an official ballot at any election; or (3) who has received contributions in excess of \$100 [NRS 294A.005](#).

Reporting Campaign Contributions and Expenses

Every candidate for office in a primary or general election must report all contributions and campaign expenses in excess of \$100 as well as multiple contributions from a single contributor that cumulatively exceed \$100. Every candidate must also report the aggregate total of all contributions and campaign expenses of \$100 or less, but they are not required to itemize contributions and campaign expenses of \$100 or less. These reports must be made quarterly pursuant to the deadlines listed in [NRS 294A.120](#) and [NRS 294A.200](#).

Every candidate must file all four C&E reports, even if he or she: (a) withdraws his or her candidacy; (b) ends his or her campaign without withdrawing; (c) receives no contributions; (d) has no campaign expenses; (e) is not opposed in the election by another candidate; (f) is defeated in the primary election; (g) is removed from the ballot by court order; or (h) is the subject of a petition to recall and the special election is not held [NRS 294A.350](#).

Loans and Written Acknowledgments

A candidate must report loans guaranteed by a third party, forgiven loans, and written commitments for a contribution. A candidate must also report the amount of any loans obtained or forgiven; the name and address of each person who either guaranteed or forgave a loan; the amount of any written commitment for a contribution; and the name and address of each person who made a written commitment [NRS 294A.128](#).

Reporting Contributions in Excess of \$10,000 Before an Election Year

Every candidate who receives total contributions in excess of \$10,000 in any year before the year of an election is required to file an Annual Contributions and Expenses (C&E) Report for that year and every year thereafter up to the election. The report must be filed on or before January 15th of the year immediately after the year in which the contributions are received. Each year thereafter before the election year, the candidate must file by January 15th his or her contributions and campaign expenses in excess of \$100 by filing an Annual C&E Filing report [NRS 294A.125](#).

Reporting Bank Interest

The reporting of bank interest is not required by officials who are required to file Contribution & Expense reports, pursuant to NRS 294A. However, it is recommended that candidates and officials report this information in the best interest of full disclosure and transparency.

- If bank interest is reported, it should be reported on a separate line item in order to clarify the nature of the funds.

Filing Contributions and Expenses (C&E) Reports

Contributions and Expenses (C&E) Reports for judicial and non-judicial candidates must be filed electronically with the Secretary of State [NRS 294A.120](#) and [NRS 294A.200](#). If you are a new candidate, you will need to create a new account. To access the online filing system, please visit: www.nvsos.gov and click on the blue button "Campaign Finance", and the Aurora Campaign Finance Disclosure appears, next "login to file reports".

The bi-annual due dates for Contributions and Expenses (C&E) Reports are as follows:

C&E Report Four (4) suffices for the Annual filing only if C&E Report #'s 1-3 were previously filed.

Annual CE Filing: Due January 15 Period: January 1 – December 31
C&E Report #1: Due April 15 Period: January 1 – March 31
C&E Report #2: Due July 15 Period: April 1 – June 30
C&E Report #3: Due October 15 Period: July 1 – September 30
C&E Report #4: Due January 15 Period: October 1 – December 31
Annual CE Filing: Due January 15 Period: January 1 – December 31

Filing Paper Financial Reports

A candidate, including judicial candidates, may file a paper C&E Report only if: 1) the candidate did not receive or expend money in excess of \$10,000 after becoming a candidate; and (2) the candidate files an affidavit with the Secretary of State which states the candidate does not own or have the ability to access the technology necessary to file the report electronically and the candidate does not have the financial ability to obtain such technology. The affidavit must be signed under an oath to God or penalty of perjury and must be filed no later than fifteen (15) days before the report due date [NRS 294A.3733](#). Blank affidavits are available upon request from the Secretary of State's office.

Please note, if a candidate completes reports 1 through 3, the fourth report due on January 15 only needs to cover the period from October 1 to December 31. The candidate is not required to file a separate Annual C&E Filing because the entire calendar year will have already been reported.

Additionally, for new candidates elected to office, the Annual C&E Filing report must be submitted no later than January 15th of each year the candidate is in office [NRS 294A.120](#).

Penalties for Failure to File or for Filing a Late C&E Report

The Secretary of State may impose civil penalties on any candidate who fails to file his or her C&E Report or who files the report late. Each violation is subject to a civil penalty of up to **\$10,000** and payment of court costs and attorney's fees. The penalty schedule for late filings is as follows, pursuant to [NRS 294A.420](#):

1 – 7 days late	\$25 for each day the report is late
8 – 15 days late	\$50 for each day the report is late
16 days late or more	\$100 for each day the report is late
Maximum Penalty NRS 294A.420	\$10,000 and payment of court costs and attorney's fees

Waiver of Civil Penalties

The Secretary of State may waive or reduce a civil penalty for good cause, if the person, committee for political action or entity that is subject to a civil penalty pursuant to [NRS 294A.420](#).

- Files a written request for a waiver setting forth the basis of the waiver; and
- Properly files the appropriate delinquent report.

The Secretary of State will not waive or reduce a civil penalty imposed for good cause, on the basis that the Secretary of State did not send a reminder notice that a report or form for registration was due before the applicable deadline.

The Secretary of State's Office will compile and publish a quarterly report of all civil penalties waived not later than 15 business days after the last day of each calendar quarter.

Contribution Limits

A person shall not make or commit to make a contribution to a candidate in a primary or general election for any office, except a federal office (which is subject to federal reporting limits that are lower), in an amount that exceeds \$5,000 for the primary election and \$5,000 for the general election, regardless of the number of candidates for the office during the period [NRS 294A.100](#):

- Beginning from January 1 of the year immediately following the last general election for the office and ending December 31 immediately following the next general election for the office, if that office is a state, district, county, or township office; or
- Beginning from 30 days after the last election for the office and ending 30 days after the next general city election for the office, if that office is a city office.

A person shall not make or commit to make a contribution to a candidate in a special election to recall a public officer in an amount that exceeds \$5,000, regardless of the number of candidates for the office [NRS 294A.115](#).

No contribution to a candidate in a recall election may be given or received except during the period:

- Beginning on the date that a notice of intent to recall a public officer is filed pursuant to [NRS 306.015](#); and
- Ending on the latest of the dates enumerated in [NRS 294A.115\(2\)\(b\)](#).

There are no constitutional or statutory limits on contributions made to groups such as political parties, committees sponsored by political parties, committees for political action, or committees for political action advocating passage or defeat of a ballot question.

Contributions Made in the Name of Another Person are Prohibited

A person shall not make or assist in making a contribution in the name of another person. Accepting a contribution made by a person in the name of another person is also prohibited [NRS 294A.112](#).

Campaign Accounts

Every candidate shall open and maintain a separate personal account in a financial institution located in the United States for the deposit of any contributions within one week of receiving a minimum contribution of \$100. The candidate shall not commingle the money in the campaign account with money collected for other purposes [NRS 294A.130](#). Candidates for judicial office should be aware that the [Revised Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct](#) also addresses this issue.

Anonymous Contributions

Anonymous contributions in excess of \$100 are prohibited. A candidate who receives a contribution of \$100 or more from an anonymous or unidentifiable contributor shall, within 10 days after receiving the contribution, deliver the money to the State Treasurer or donate it to a nonprofit entity [NRS 294A.190](#).

Personal use of Campaign Funds

It is unlawful for a candidate to spend money received as a contribution for his or her personal use [NRS 294A.160](#). “Personal use” under [NRS 294A.011](#) means any use of contributions to fulfill a commitment, obligation, or expense of:

- A candidate that would exist irrespective of his or her campaign.
- A public officer that would exist irrespective of the duties of his or her public office, as applicable.

Additionally, the legislative history surrounding the personal use prohibition indicates the legislature intended to disallow expenditures of campaign monies for typical personal and household expenses such as food, clothing, rent, utilities, and the like. Federal law and persuasive authority from other states indicate, as a more general rule, that [NRS 294A.160](#) prohibits the use of funds in a campaign account if the particular use would fulfill a commitment, obligation, or expense that would exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or duties as an officeholder.

In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions are the value of goods and services provided in kind for which money would have otherwise been paid, such as paid polling and any resulting data, paid direct mail, paid solicitation by telephone, any paid paraphernalia that was printed or otherwise produced to promote a campaign, and the use of paid personnel to assist in the campaign [NRS 294A.007](#). In-kind contributions must be reported on C&E reports that are filed with the Secretary of State's office [NRS 294A.362](#).

Restrictions on Acceptance of Contributions Prior to Legislative Session

A member of the Legislature, the Governor, the Governor-Elect, the Lieutenant Governor, the Lieutenant Governor-Elect, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, the State Controller, or the Attorney General may not solicit or accept a contribution during the period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after a regular session of the Nevada Legislature. If a special session is called, those officers may not solicit or accept a campaign contribution during a period prior to the beginning of the special session and ending 15 days after the final adjournment of a special session [NRS 294A.300](#). These restrictions also apply to a member of an organization whose primary purpose is to provide support for legislators of a particular political party and house, such as legislative caucuses [NRS 294A.310](#).

Completion of a Campaign

Notice of Completion of Campaign

If a candidate withdraws, ends his or her campaign, is defeated in the primary election, or has been removed from the ballot by court order, they must file a [Notice of Completion of Campaign](#) with the Secretary of State. Additionally, the candidate must dispose of any unspent or excess contributions and file all remaining required financial reports. The candidate shall not accept additional campaign contributions [NRS 294A.350](#).

If the candidate is later elected to office despite ending his or her campaign, they must start reporting their contributions and expenses, beginning with the next report that is due after his or her election to office.

Disposition of Unspent Contributions

Candidates who are defeated during an election, withdraw from a race, or are removed from the ballot via court order must file all four C&E reports, with the final C&E report detailing how the remaining funds were disposed of [NRS 294A.350](#).

Every candidate who is defeated at the primary election and received a contribution from a person in excess of \$5,000 shall, not later than the 15th day of the second month after his or her defeat, return any money in excess of \$5,000 to the contributor.

State law also specifically limits the manner in which unspent contributions may be disposed. Candidates who are elected to office may keep unspent campaign funds and use them for the candidate's next election [NRS 294A.160](#).

Frequently Asked Campaign Finance Questions

Q: Is there a limit to the amount of contributions I can accept as a candidate from one donor?

A: Yes. The limit is \$5,000 for the primary election and \$5,000 for the general election, for a maximum total of \$10,000. A candidate for office in a special election may receive a maximum of \$5,000 from a single donor. If you receive more than \$5,000 from any person and lose the primary election, you must return any amount in excess of \$5,000 to the contributor [NRS 294A.100](#) and [NRS 294A.160](#).

Q: What if I don't have a primary election? Can I still receive the maximum of \$10,000?

A: A candidate who does not have an opponent in a primary election, but who is running in an election that contains both a primary and a general election cycle, may receive the maximum of \$10,000 from one donor.

Candidates seeking office in a special election may only receive a maximum of \$5,000 from one donor.

Q: Is there a limit to the amount of contributions a Committee for Political Action (PAC) can receive from one donor?

A: No. There is no limit to the amount of contributions a PAC can receive or give to another PAC. However, PACs are still limited as to the amount they can contribute to an individual candidate [NRS 294A.100](#).

Q: What is an in-kind contribution?

A: The value of goods or services provided in kind for which money would have otherwise been paid [NRS 294A.007](#). For example, a person donates billboard space to a candidate free of charge. This would be an in-kind contribution, the value of which would be what it would normally cost to rent the billboard space.

Q: Can I make an anonymous contribution to a candidate?

A: No. Anonymous contributions of \$100 or more are prohibited [NRS 294A.190](#).

Q: Can I make a contribution to a candidate in the name of another person?

A: No. Making a contribution in the name of another person, sometimes known as conduit or straw contributions, is prohibited by law [NRS 294A.112](#).

Q: Are the C&E Reports the only finance forms I have to file?

A: No. Financial Disclosure Statements (FDSs) must also be filed with the Secretary of State [NRS 281.561](#).

Q: Do all candidates have to file all four C&E Reports?

A: Yes. Every candidate (excluding federal candidates) must file all four C&E reports even if he or she withdraws their candidacy, ends his or her campaign without withdrawing, receives no contributions, has no expenses, is defeated in the primary election, has their name removed from the ballot by court order, runs unopposed, or is the subject of a petition to recall and the special election is not held [NRS 294A.120](#); [NRS 294A.200](#); and [NRS 294A.350](#).

Q: Can I mail or fax my C&E Report to the appropriate filing officer?

A: No. All C&E Reports must be filed electronically with the Secretary of State. A candidate may file a paper report only if: 1) the candidate did not receive or expend money in excess of \$10,000 after becoming a candidate; and (2) the candidate files an affidavit with the Secretary of State that states the candidate does not own or have the ability to access the technology necessary to file the report electronically and the candidate does not have the financial ability to obtain such technology. The affidavit must be signed under an oath to God or penalty of perjury. This form must be filed with Secretary of State not later than 15 days before the C&E Report is required to be filed [NRS 294A.3733](#).

Q: What happens if I file my C&E Report(s) late?

A: There is a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation [NRS 294A.420](#).

1 – 7 days late	\$25 for each day the report is late
8 – 15 days late	\$50 for each day the report is late
16 days late or more	\$100 for each day the report is late
Maximum Penalty (NRS 294A.420)	\$10,000 and payment of court costs and attorney's fees

Q: What happens if I do not file all four C&E reports?

A: In addition to any civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation, your file may be referred to the Attorney General's office for further action [NRS 294A.420](#). Please note that even if you have missed the deadline to file a report, you are still required to file the report.

Q: Can I pay the penalty out of my campaign account?

A: No. Pursuant to [NRS 294A.160](#), personal use of campaign funds is prohibited.

Q: What must a candidate do prior to accepting donations?

A: Every candidate shall open and maintain a separate personal account in a financial institution located in the United States for the deposit of any campaign contributions within one week of receiving a minimum contribution of \$100 [NRS 294A.130](#).

Q: When is the Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) due?

A: **Non-Judicial Candidate:** 10 Days after the last day of candidate filing

Judicial Candidate: March 31, 20XX, for the preceding year of the judge's term

Annual FDS: January 15, 20XX

Appointment FDS: 30 days after appointment

[NRS 281.559](#) and [NRS 281.561](#)

Q: What happens if I fail to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) or do not file one at all?

A: You will need to email a "Waiver Request" to nvelect@sos.nv.gov briefly stating why you were late in filing. If accepted, you will be contacted, and your penalty fee will be waived. There is a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per violation provided by law and your file may be remanded to the Attorney General's office if you fail to pay the penalty [NRS 281.581](#).

1 – 10 days late	\$25
11 – 20 days late	\$50
21 – 30 days late	\$100
31 – 45 days late	\$250
Not filed or more than 45 days late	\$2,000

Q: Can I pay campaign expenses out of my own funds and later reimburse myself out of campaign contributions?

A: Yes, but you must report both the expense and the reimbursement. This is accomplished by reporting a contribution in the form of a loan from the candidate to the campaign in the amount of the expense that was paid for with personal funds. Contributions that are intended as a loan can be marked as such in the C&E Report. The reimbursement to the candidate is reported as a campaign expense under Category M – Repayment of Forgiveness of Loans.

Q: Do I need to report donated or discounted goods or services that are provided to my campaign?

A: Yes. Donated goods or services are an in-kind contribution, and the standard cost of donated goods or services must be reported as such. With respect to discounted goods or services, the difference between the standard cost for the goods or services and the discounted cost is considered an in-kind contribution and must be reported [NRS 294A.007](#).