

As Introduced

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S. B. No. 44

Senator LaRose

**Cosponsors: Senators Oelslager, Gardner, Brown, Williams, Hoagland, Coley,
Thomas, Tavares, Yuko, Hite, Terhar, Hackett, Eklund, Beagle, Sykes**

A BILL

To amend sections 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.106, 1
3517.1011, and 3517.11 of the Revised Code to 2
allow certain campaign committees and other 3
entities to file campaign finance statements 4
electronically and to require the Secretary of 5
State to make the information in those 6
electronic statements available online. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.106, 8
3517.1011, and 3517.11 of the Revised Code be amended to read as 9
follows: 10

Sec. 3517.10. (A) Except as otherwise provided in this 11
division, every campaign committee, political action committee, 12
legislative campaign fund, political party, and political 13
contributing entity that made or received a contribution or made 14
an expenditure in connection with the nomination or election of 15
any candidate or in connection with any ballot issue or question 16
at any election held or to be held in this state shall file, on 17
a form prescribed under this section or by electronic means of 18

transmission as provided in this section and section 3517.106 of 19
the Revised Code, a full, true, and itemized statement, made 20
under penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail 21
the contributions and expenditures, not later than four p.m. of 22
the following dates: 23

(1) The twelfth day before the election to reflect 24
contributions received and expenditures made from the close of 25
business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed 26
statement, if any, to the close of business on the twentieth day 27
before the election; 28

(2) The thirty-eighth day after the election to reflect 29
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 30
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 31
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh 32
day before the filing of the statement; 33

(3) The last business day of January of every year to 34
reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from 35
the close of business on the last day reflected in the last 36
previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on 37
the last day of December of the previous year; 38

(4) The last business day of July of every year to reflect 39
the contributions received and expenditures made from the close 40
of business on the last day reflected in the last previously 41
filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last 42
day of June of that year. 43

A campaign committee shall only be required to file the 44
statements prescribed under divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this 45
section in connection with the nomination or election of the 46
committee's candidate. 47

The statement required under division (A)(1) of this section shall not be required of any campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity that has received contributions of less than one thousand dollars and has made expenditures of less than one thousand dollars at the close of business on the twentieth day before the election. Those contributions and expenditures shall be reported in the statement required under division (A)(2) of this section.

If an election to select candidates to appear on the general election ballot is held within sixty days before a general election, the campaign committee of a successful candidate in the earlier election may file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section for the general election instead of the statement required by division (A)(2) of this section for the earlier election if the pregeneral election statement reflects the status of contributions and expenditures for the period twenty days before the earlier election to twenty days before the general election.

If a person becomes a candidate less than twenty days before an election, the candidate's campaign committee is not required to file the statement required by division (A)(1) of this section.

No statement under division (A)(3) of this section shall be required for any year in which a campaign committee, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity is required to file a postgeneral election statement under division (A)(2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A)(3) of this section may be filed, at the option of the campaign committee,

political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 78
party, or political contributing entity. 79

No campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 80
chief justice or justice of the supreme court, and no campaign 81
committee of a candidate for the office of judge of any court in 82
this state, shall be required to file a statement under division 83
(A) (4) of this section. 84

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in the 85
next paragraph of this section, the only campaign committees 86
required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of this 87
section are the campaign committee of a statewide candidate and 88
the campaign committee of a candidate for county office. The 89
campaign committee of a candidate for any other nonjudicial 90
office is required to file a statement under division (A) (4) of 91
this section if that campaign committee receives, during that 92
period, contributions exceeding ten thousand dollars. 93

No statement under division (A) (4) of this section shall 94
be required of a campaign committee, a political action 95
committee, a legislative campaign fund, a political party, or a 96
political contributing entity for any year in which the campaign 97
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 98
fund, political party, or political contributing entity is 99
required to file a postprimary election statement under division 100
(A) (2) of this section. However, a statement under division (A) 101
(4) of this section may be filed at the option of the campaign 102
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 103
fund, political party, or political contributing entity. 104

No statement under division (A) (3) or (4) of this section 105
shall be required if the campaign committee, political action 106
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 107

political contributing entity has no contributions that it has 108
received and no expenditures that it has made since the last 109
date reflected in its last previously filed statement. However, 110
the campaign committee, political action committee, legislative 111
campaign fund, political party, or political contributing entity 112
shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed 113
under this section and made under penalty of election 114
falsification, on the date required in division (A) (3) or (4) of 115
this section, as applicable. 116

The campaign committee of a statewide candidate shall file 117
a monthly statement of contributions received during each of the 118
months of July, August, and September in the year of the general 119
election in which the candidate seeks office. The campaign 120
committee of a statewide candidate shall file the monthly 121
statement not later than three business days after the last day 122
of the month covered by the statement. During the period 123
beginning on the nineteenth day before the general election in 124
which a statewide candidate seeks election to office and 125
extending through the day of that general election, each time 126
the campaign committee of the joint candidates for the offices 127
of governor and lieutenant governor or of a candidate for the 128
office of secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of 129
state, or attorney general receives a contribution from a 130
contributor that causes the aggregate amount of contributions 131
received from that contributor during that period to equal or 132
exceed ten thousand dollars and each time the campaign committee 133
of a candidate for the office of chief justice or justice of the 134
supreme court receives a contribution from a contributor that 135
causes the aggregate amount of contributions received from that 136
contributor during that period to exceed ten thousand dollars, 137
the campaign committee shall file a two-business-day statement 138

reflecting that contribution. Contributions reported on a two- 139
business-day statement required to be filed by a campaign 140
committee of a statewide candidate in a primary election shall 141
also be included in the postprimary election statement required 142
to be filed by that campaign committee under division (A) (2) of 143
this section. A two-business-day statement required by this 144
paragraph shall be filed not later than two business days after 145
receipt of the contribution. The statements required by this 146
paragraph shall be filed in addition to any other statements 147
required by this section. 148

Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 149
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 150
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C) (6) (b) 151
and (D) (6) of this section and division ~~(H)~~(F) (1) of section 152
3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 153
statements by electronic means of transmission, a campaign 154
committee of a statewide candidate shall file a two-business-day 155
statement under the preceding paragraph by electronic means of 156
transmission if the campaign committee is required to file a 157
pre-election, postelection, or monthly statement of 158
contributions and expenditures by electronic means of 159
transmission under this section or section 3517.106 of the 160
Revised Code. 161

If a campaign committee or political action committee has 162
no balance on hand and no outstanding obligations and desires to 163
terminate itself, it shall file a statement to that effect, on a 164
form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of 165
election falsification, with the official with whom it files a 166
statement under division (A) of this section after filing a 167
final statement of contributions and a final statement of 168
expenditures, if contributions have been received or 169

expenditures made since the period reflected in its last 170
previously filed statement. 171

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (7) of 172
this section, each statement required by division (A) of this 173
section shall contain the following information: 174

(1) The full name and address of each campaign committee, 175
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 176
party, or political contributing entity, including any treasurer 177
of the committee, fund, party, or entity, filing a contribution 178
and expenditure statement; 179

(2) (a) In the case of a campaign committee, the 180
candidate's full name and address; 181

(b) In the case of a political action committee, the 182
registration number assigned to the committee under division (D) 183
(1) of this section. 184

(3) The date of the election and whether it was or will be 185
a general, primary, or special election; 186

(4) A statement of contributions received, which shall 187
include the following information: 188

(a) The month, day, and year of the contribution; 189

(b) (i) The full name and address of each person, political 190
party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political 191
action committee, or political contributing entity from whom 192
contributions are received and the registration number assigned 193
to the political action committee under division (D) (1) of this 194
section. The requirement of filing the full address does not 195
apply to any statement filed by a state or local committee of a 196
political party, to a finance committee of such committee, or to 197

a committee recognized by a state or local committee as its 198
fund-raising auxiliary. Notwithstanding division (F) of this 199
section, the requirement of filing the full address shall be 200
considered as being met if the address filed is the same address 201
the contributor provided under division (E)(1) of this section. 202

(ii) If a political action committee, political 203
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 204
party that is required to file campaign finance statements by 205
electronic means of transmission under section 3517.106 of the 206
Revised Code or a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 207
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 208
receives a contribution from an individual that exceeds one 209
hundred dollars, the name of the individual's current employer, 210
if any, or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 211
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any; 212

(iii) If a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 213
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly 214
receives a contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 215
of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and 216
salaries of two or more employees that exceeds in the aggregate 217
one hundred dollars during any one filing period under division 218
(A)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section, the full name of the 219
employees' employer and the full name of the labor organization 220
of which the employees are members, if any. 221

(c) A description of the contribution received, if other 222
than money; 223

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution; 224

(e) A separately itemized account of all contributions and 225
expenditures regardless of the amount, except a receipt of a 226

contribution from a person in the sum of twenty-five dollars or 227
less at one social or fund-raising activity and a receipt of a 228
contribution transmitted pursuant to section 3599.031 of the 229
Revised Code from amounts deducted from the wages and salaries 230
of employees if the contribution from the amount deducted from 231
the wages and salary of any one employee is twenty-five dollars 232
or less aggregated in a calendar year. An account of the total 233
contributions from each social or fund-raising activity shall 234
include a description of and the value of each in-kind 235
contribution received at that activity from any person who made 236
one or more such contributions whose aggregate value exceeded 237
two hundred fifty dollars and shall be listed separately, 238
together with the expenses incurred and paid in connection with 239
that activity. A campaign committee, political action committee, 240
legislative campaign fund, political party, or political 241
contributing entity shall keep records of contributions from 242
each person in the amount of twenty-five dollars or less at one 243
social or fund-raising activity and contributions from amounts 244
deducted under section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from the 245
wages and salary of each employee in the amount of twenty-five 246
dollars or less aggregated in a calendar year. No continuing 247
association that is recognized by a state or local committee of 248
a political party as an auxiliary of the party and that makes a 249
contribution from funds derived solely from regular dues paid by 250
members of the auxiliary shall be required to list the name or 251
address of any members who paid those dues. 252

Contributions that are other income shall be itemized 253
separately from all other contributions. The information 254
required under division (B)(4) of this section shall be provided 255
for all other income itemized. As used in this paragraph, "other 256
income" means a loan, investment income, or interest income. 257

(f) In the case of a campaign committee of a state elected officer, if a person doing business with the state elected officer in the officer's official capacity makes a contribution to the campaign committee of that officer, the information required under division (B)(4) of this section in regard to that contribution, which shall be filed together with and considered a part of the committee's statement of contributions as required under division (A) of this section but shall be filed on a separate form provided by the secretary of state. As used in this division:

(i) "State elected officer" has the same meaning as in section 3517.092 of the Revised Code.

(ii) "Person doing business" means a person or an officer of an entity who enters into one or more contracts with a state elected officer or anyone authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of that officer to receive payments for goods or services, if the payments total, in the aggregate, more than five thousand dollars during a calendar year.

(5) A statement of expenditures which shall include the following information:

(a) The month, day, and year of the expenditure;

(b) The full name and address of each person, political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or political contributing entity to whom the expenditure was made and the registration number assigned to the political action committee under division (D)(1) of this section;

(c) The object or purpose for which the expenditure was made;

(d) The amount of each expenditure.	287
(C) (1) The statement of contributions and expenditures shall be signed by the person completing the form. If a statement of contributions and expenditures is filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to this section or section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the electronic signature of the person who executes the statement and transmits the statement by electronic means of transmission, as provided in division (H) <u>(F)</u> of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall be attached to or associated with the statement and shall be binding on all persons and for all purposes under the campaign finance reporting law as if the signature had been handwritten in ink on a printed form.	288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299
(2) The person filing the statement, under penalty of election falsification, shall include with it a list of each anonymous contribution, the circumstances under which it was received, and the reason it cannot be attributed to a specific donor.	300 301 302 303 304
(3) Each statement of a campaign committee of a candidate who holds public office shall contain a designation of each contributor who is an employee in any unit or department under the candidate's direct supervision and control. In a space provided in the statement, the person filing the statement shall affirm that each such contribution was voluntarily made.	305 306 307 308 309 310
(4) A campaign committee that did not receive contributions or make expenditures in connection with the nomination or election of its candidate shall file a statement to that effect, on a form prescribed under this section and made under penalty of election falsification, on the date required in division (A) (2) of this section.	311 312 313 314 315 316

(5) The campaign committee of any person who attempts to 317
become a candidate and who, for any reason, does not become 318
certified in accordance with Title XXXV of the Revised Code for 319
placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or 320
special election to be held in this state, and who, at any time 321
prior to or after an election, receives contributions or makes 322
expenditures, or has given consent for another to receive 323
contributions or make expenditures, for the purpose of bringing 324
about the person's nomination or election to public office, 325
shall file the statement or statements prescribed by this 326
section and a termination statement, if applicable. Division (C) 327
(5) of this section does not apply to any person with respect to 328
an election to the offices of member of a county or state 329
central committee, presidential elector, or delegate to a 330
national convention or conference of a political party. 331

(6) (a) The statements required to be filed under this 332
section shall specify the balance in the hands of the campaign 333
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 334
fund, political party, or political contributing entity and the 335
disposition intended to be made of that balance. 336

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for 337
all statements required to be filed under this section and shall 338
furnish the forms to the boards of elections in the several 339
counties. The boards of elections shall supply printed copies of 340
those forms without charge. The secretary of state shall 341
prescribe the appropriate methodology, protocol, and data file 342
structure for statements required or permitted to be filed by 343
electronic means of transmission to the secretary of state or a 344
board of elections under division (A) of this section, ~~divisions~~ 345
~~division~~ (E), ~~(F)~~, and ~~(G)~~ of section 3517.106, division (D) of 346
section 3517.1011, division (B) of section 3517.1012, division 347

(C) of section 3517.1013, and divisions (D) and (I) of section 348
3517.1014 of the Revised Code. Subject to division (A) of this 349
section, ~~divisions~~ division (E), ~~(F), and (G)~~ of section 350
3517.106, division (D) of section 3517.1011, division (B) of 351
section 3517.1012, division (C) of section 3517.1013, and 352
divisions (D) and (I) of section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code, 353
the statements required to be stored on computer by the 354
secretary of state under division (B) of section 3517.106 of the 355
Revised Code shall be filed in whatever format the secretary of 356
state considers necessary to enable the secretary of state to 357
store the information contained in the statements on computer. 358
Any such format shall be of a type and nature that is readily 359
available to whoever is required to file the statements in that 360
format. 361

(c) The secretary of state shall assess the need for 362
training regarding the filing of campaign finance statements by 363
electronic means of transmission and regarding associated 364
technologies for candidates, campaign committees, political 365
action committees, legislative campaign funds, political 366
parties, or political contributing entities, for individuals, 367
partnerships, or other entities, for persons making 368
disbursements to pay the direct costs of producing or airing 369
electioneering communications, or for treasurers of transition 370
funds, required or permitted to file statements by electronic 371
means of transmission under this section or section 3517.105, 372
3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the 373
Revised Code. If, in the opinion of the secretary of state, 374
training in these areas is necessary, the secretary of state 375
shall arrange for the provision of voluntary training programs 376
for candidates, campaign committees, political action 377
committees, legislative campaign funds, political parties, or 378

political contributing entities, for individuals, partnerships, 379
and other entities, for persons making disbursements to pay the 380
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 381
communications, or for treasurers of transition funds, as 382
appropriate. 383

(7) Each monthly statement and each two-business-day 384
statement required by division (A) of this section shall contain 385
the information required by divisions (B) (1) to (4), (C) (2), 386
and, if appropriate, (C) (3) of this section. Each statement 387
shall be signed as required by division (C) (1) of this section. 388

(D) (1) Prior to receiving a contribution or making an 389
expenditure, every campaign committee, political action 390
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 391
political contributing entity shall appoint a treasurer and 392
shall file, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, a 393
designation of that appointment, including the full name and 394
address of the treasurer and of the campaign committee, 395
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 396
party, or political contributing entity. That designation shall 397
be filed with the official with whom the campaign committee, 398
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 399
party, or political contributing entity is required to file 400
statements under section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. The name 401
of a campaign committee shall include at least the last name of 402
the campaign committee's candidate. If two or more candidates 403
are the beneficiaries of a single campaign committee under 404
division (B) of section 3517.081 of the Revised Code, the name 405
of the campaign committee shall include at least the last name 406
of each candidate who is a beneficiary of that campaign 407
committee. The secretary of state shall assign a registration 408
number to each political action committee that files a 409

designation of the appointment of a treasurer under this 410
division if the political action committee is required by 411
division (A) (1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code to file 412
the statements prescribed by this section with the secretary of 413
state. 414

(2) The treasurer appointed under division (D) (1) of this 415
section shall keep a strict account of all contributions, from 416
whom received and the purpose for which they were disbursed. 417

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 3517.108 of 418
the Revised Code, a campaign committee shall deposit all 419
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 420
separate from a personal or business account of the candidate or 421
campaign committee. 422

(b) A political action committee shall deposit all 423
monetary contributions received by the committee into an account 424
separate from all other funds. 425

(c) A state or county political party may establish a 426
state candidate fund that is separate from an account that 427
contains the public moneys received from the Ohio political 428
party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code and from 429
all other funds. A state or county political party may deposit 430
into its state candidate fund any amounts of monetary 431
contributions that are made to or accepted by the political 432
party subject to the applicable limitations, if any, prescribed 433
in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code. A state or county 434
political party shall deposit all other monetary contributions 435
received by the party into one or more accounts that are 436
separate from its state candidate fund and from its account that 437
contains the public moneys received from the Ohio political 438
party fund under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 439

(d) Each state political party shall have only one 440
legislative campaign fund for each house of the general 441
assembly. Each such fund shall be separate from any other funds 442
or accounts of that state party. A legislative campaign fund is 443
authorized to receive contributions and make expenditures for 444
the primary purpose of furthering the election of candidates who 445
are members of that political party to the house of the general 446
assembly with which that legislative campaign fund is 447
associated. Each legislative campaign fund shall be administered 448
and controlled in a manner designated by the caucus. As used in 449
this division, "caucus" has the same meaning as in section 450
3517.01 of the Revised Code and includes, as an ex officio 451
member, the chairperson of the state political party with which 452
the caucus is associated or that chairperson's designee. 453

(4) Every expenditure in excess of twenty-five dollars 454
shall be vouched for by a receipted bill, stating the purpose of 455
the expenditure, that shall be filed with the statement of 456
expenditures. A canceled check with a notation of the purpose of 457
the expenditure is a receipted bill for purposes of division (D) 458
(4) of this section. 459

(5) The secretary of state or the board of elections, as 460
the case may be, shall issue a receipt for each statement filed 461
under this section and shall preserve a copy of the receipt for 462
a period of at least six years. All statements filed under this 463
section shall be open to public inspection in the office where 464
they are filed and shall be carefully preserved for a period of 465
at least six years after the year in which they are filed. 466

(6) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to 467
section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe both of the 468
following: 469

(a) The manner of immediately acknowledging, with date and 470
time received, and preserving the receipt of statements that are 471
transmitted by electronic means of transmission to the secretary 472
of state or a board of elections pursuant to this section or 473
section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 474
of the Revised Code; 475

(b) The manner of preserving the contribution and 476
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 477
disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 478
disbursement information in the statements described in division 479
(D) (6) (a) of this section. The secretary of state shall preserve 480
the contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, 481
deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 482
disbursement information in those statements for at least ten 483
years after the year in which they are filed by electronic means 484
of transmission. 485

(7) (a) The secretary of state, pursuant to division ~~(F)~~ 486
(G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, shall make 487
available online to the public through the internet the 488
contribution and expenditure, contribution and disbursement, 489
deposit and disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 490
disbursement information in all of the following documents: 491

(i) All statements, all addenda, amendments, or other 492
corrections to statements, and all amended statements filed with 493
the secretary of state by electronic or other means of 494
transmission under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) 495
of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 496
3517.1013, 3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code; 497

(ii) All statements filed with a board of elections by 498
electronic means of transmission, and all addenda, amendments, 499

corrections, and amended versions of those statements, filed 500
with the board under this section, division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) 501
(b) of section 3517.105, or section 3517.106, 3517.1012, or 502
3517.11 of the Revised Code. ~~The~~ 503

(b) The secretary of state may remove the information from 504
the internet after a reasonable period of time. 505

(E) (1) Any person, political party, campaign committee, 506
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 507
political contributing entity that makes a contribution in 508
connection with the nomination or election of any candidate or 509
in connection with any ballot issue or question at any election 510
held or to be held in this state shall provide its full name and 511
address to the recipient of the contribution at the time the 512
contribution is made. The political action committee also shall 513
provide the registration number assigned to the committee under 514
division (D) (1) of this section to the recipient of the 515
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 516

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution that exceeds 517
one hundred dollars to a political action committee, political 518
contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or political 519
party or to a campaign committee of a statewide candidate or 520
candidate for the office of member of the general assembly shall 521
provide the name of the individual's current employer, if any, 522
or, if the individual is self-employed, the individual's 523
occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any, to 524
the recipient of the contribution at the time the contribution 525
is made. Sections 3599.39 and 3599.40 of the Revised Code do not 526
apply to division (E) (2) of this section. 527

(3) If a campaign committee shows that it has exercised 528
its best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the information 529

required under divisions (B) (4) (b) (ii) and (iii) of this 530
section, that committee is considered to have met the 531
requirements of those divisions. A campaign committee shall not 532
be considered to have exercised its best efforts unless, in 533
connection with written solicitations, it regularly includes a 534
written request for the information required under division (B) 535
(4) (b) (ii) of this section from the contributor or the 536
information required under division (B) (4) (b) (iii) of this 537
section from whoever transmits the contribution. 538

(4) Any check that a political action committee uses to 539
make a contribution or an expenditure shall contain the full 540
name and address of the committee and the registration number 541
assigned to the committee under division (D) (1) of this section. 542

(F) As used in this section: 543

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) (1) of 544
this section, "address" means all of the following if they 545
exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name and 546
number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, and 547
zip code as used in a person's post-office address, but not 548
post-office box. 549

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) (1) of 550
this section, if an address is required in this section, a post- 551
office box and office, room, or suite number may be included in 552
addition to, but not in lieu of, an apartment, street, road, or 553
highway name and number. 554

(c) If an address is required in this section, a campaign 555
committee, political action committee, legislative campaign 556
fund, political party, or political contributing entity may use 557
the business or residence address of its treasurer or deputy 558

treasurer. The post-office box number of the campaign committee, 559
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 560
party, or political contributing entity may be used in addition 561
to that address. 562

(d) For the sole purpose of a campaign committee's 563
reporting of contributions on a statement of contributions 564
received under division (B) (4) of this section, "address" has 565
one of the following meanings at the option of the campaign 566
committee: 567

(i) The same meaning as in division (F) (1) (a) of this 568
section; 569

(ii) All of the following, if they exist: the 570
contributor's post-office box number and city or village, state, 571
and zip code as used in the contributor's post-office address. 572

(e) As used with regard to the reporting under this 573
section of any expenditure, "address" means all of the following 574
if they exist: apartment number, street, road, or highway name 575
and number, rural delivery route number, city or village, state, 576
and zip code as used in a person's post-office address, or post- 577
office box. If an address concerning any expenditure is required 578
in this section, a campaign committee, political action 579
committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, or 580
political contributing entity may use the business or residence 581
address of its treasurer or deputy treasurer or its post-office 582
box number. 583

(2) "Statewide candidate" means the joint candidates for 584
the offices of governor and lieutenant governor or a candidate 585
for the office of secretary of state, auditor of state, 586
treasurer of state, attorney general, member of the state board 587

of education, chief justice of the supreme court, or justice of 588
the supreme court. 589

(3) "Candidate for county office" means a candidate for 590
the office of county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the 591
court of common pleas, judge of the court of common pleas, 592
sheriff, county recorder, county engineer, county commissioner, 593
prosecuting attorney, or coroner. 594

(G) An independent expenditure shall be reported whenever 595
and in the same manner that an expenditure is required to be 596
reported under this section and shall be reported pursuant to 597
division (B) (2) (a) or (C) (2) (a) of section 3517.105 of the 598
Revised Code. 599

(H) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (H) (2) of 600
this section, if, during the combined pre-election and 601
postelection reporting periods for an election, a campaign 602
committee has received contributions of five hundred dollars or 603
less and has made expenditures in the total amount of five 604
hundred dollars or less, it may file a statement to that effect, 605
under penalty of election falsification, in lieu of the 606
statement required by division (A) (2) of this section. The 607
statement shall indicate the total amount of contributions 608
received and the total amount of expenditures made during those 609
combined reporting periods. 610

(2) In the case of a successful candidate at a primary 611
election, if either the total contributions received by or the 612
total expenditures made by the candidate's campaign committee 613
during the preprimary, postprimary, pregeneral, and postgeneral 614
election periods combined equal more than five hundred dollars, 615
the campaign committee may file the statement under division (H) 616
(1) of this section only for the primary election. The first 617

statement that the campaign committee files in regard to the 618
general election shall reflect all contributions received and 619
all expenditures made during the preprimary and postprimary 620
election periods. 621

(3) Divisions (H) (1) and (2) of this section do not apply 622
if a campaign committee receives contributions or makes 623
expenditures prior to the first day of January of the year of 624
the election at which the candidate seeks nomination or election 625
to office or if the campaign committee does not file a 626
termination statement with its postprimary election statement in 627
the case of an unsuccessful primary election candidate or with 628
its postgeneral election statement in the case of other 629
candidates. 630

(I) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a 631
partnership or an owner or a member of another unincorporated 632
business from any funds of the partnership or other 633
unincorporated business, all of the following apply: 634

(1) The recipient of the contribution shall report the 635
contribution by listing both the partnership or other 636
unincorporated business and the name of the partner, owner, or 637
member making the contribution. 638

(2) In reporting the contribution, the recipient of the 639
contribution shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the 640
information provided by the partnership or other unincorporated 641
business, provided that the information includes one of the 642
following: 643

(a) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 644
date of the contribution or contributions, and a statement that 645
the total contributions are to be allocated equally among all of 646

the partners, owners, or members; or 647

(b) The name of each partner, owner, or member as of the 648
date of the contribution or contributions who is participating 649
in the contribution or contributions, and a statement that the 650
contribution or contributions are to be allocated to those 651
individuals in accordance with the information provided by the 652
partnership or other unincorporated business to the recipient of 653
the contribution. 654

(3) For purposes of section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, 655
the contribution shall be considered to have been made by the 656
partner, owner, or member reported under division (I)(1) of this 657
section. 658

(4) No contribution from a partner of a partnership or an 659
owner or a member of another unincorporated business shall be 660
accepted from any funds of the partnership or other 661
unincorporated business unless the recipient reports the 662
contribution under division (I)(1) of this section together with 663
the information provided under division (I)(2) of this section. 664

(5) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall 665
make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the 666
partnership or other unincorporated business. 667

(6) As used in division (I) of this section, "partnership 668
or other unincorporated business" includes, but is not limited 669
to, a cooperative, a sole proprietorship, a general partnership, 670
a limited partnership, a limited partnership association, a 671
limited liability partnership, and a limited liability company. 672

(J) A candidate shall have only one campaign committee at 673
any given time for all of the offices for which the person is a 674
candidate or holds office. 675

(K) (1) In addition to filing a designation of appointment 676
of a treasurer under division (D) (1) of this section, the 677
campaign committee of any candidate for an elected municipal 678
office that pays an annual amount of compensation of five 679
thousand dollars or less, the campaign committee of any 680
candidate for member of a board of education except member of 681
the state board of education, or the campaign committee of any 682
candidate for township trustee or township fiscal officer may 683
sign, under penalty of election falsification, a certificate 684
attesting that the committee will not accept contributions 685
during an election period that exceed in the aggregate two 686
thousand dollars from all contributors and one hundred dollars 687
from any one individual, and that the campaign committee will 688
not make expenditures during an election period that exceed in 689
the aggregate two thousand dollars. 690

The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the 691
secretary of state and shall be filed not later than ten days 692
after the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and 693
petition, a nominating petition, or a declaration of intent to 694
be a write-in candidate. 695

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (K) (3) of 696
this section, a campaign committee that files a certificate 697
under division (K) (1) of this section is not required to file 698
the statements required by division (A) of this section. 699

(3) If, after filing a certificate under division (K) (1) 700
of this section, a campaign committee exceeds any of the 701
limitations described in that division during an election 702
period, the certificate is void and thereafter the campaign 703
committee shall file the statements required by division (A) of 704
this section. If the campaign committee has not previously filed 705

a statement, then on the first statement the campaign committee 706
is required to file under division (A) of this section after the 707
committee's certificate is void, the committee shall report all 708
contributions received and expenditures made from the time the 709
candidate filed the candidate's declaration of candidacy and 710
petition, nominating petition, or declaration of intent to be a 711
write-in candidate. 712

(4) As used in division (K) of this section, "election 713
period" means the period of time beginning on the day a person 714
files a declaration of candidacy and petition, nominating 715
petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate 716
through the day of the election at which the person seeks 717
nomination to office if the person is not elected to office, or, 718
if the candidate was nominated in a primary election, the day of 719
the election at which the candidate seeks office. 720

(L) A political contributing entity that receives 721
contributions from the dues, membership fees, or other 722
assessments of its members or from its officers, shareholders, 723
and employees may report the aggregate amount of contributions 724
received from those contributors and the number of individuals 725
making those contributions, for each filing period under 726
divisions (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section, rather than 727
reporting information as required under division (B) (4) of this 728
section, including, when applicable, the name of the current 729
employer, if any, of a contributor whose contribution exceeds 730
one hundred dollars or, if such a contributor is self-employed, 731
the contributor's occupation and the name of the contributor's 732
business, if any. Division (B) (4) of this section applies to a 733
political contributing entity with regard to contributions it 734
receives from all other contributors. 735

Sec. 3517.105. (A) (1) As used in this section, "public 736
political advertising" means advertising to the general public 737
through a broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, poster, 738
yard sign, or outdoor advertising facility, by direct mail, or 739
by any other means of advertising to the general public. 740

(2) For purposes of this section and section 3517.20 of 741
the Revised Code, a person is a member of a political action 742
committee if the person makes one or more contributions to that 743
political action committee, and a person is a member of a 744
political contributing entity if the person makes one or more 745
contributions to, or pays dues, membership fees, or other 746
assessments to, that political contributing entity. 747

(B) (1) Whenever a candidate, a campaign committee, a 748
political action committee or political contributing entity with 749
ten or more members, or a legislative campaign fund makes an 750
independent expenditure, or whenever a political action 751
committee or political contributing entity with fewer than ten 752
members makes an independent expenditure in excess of one 753
hundred dollars for a local candidate, in excess of two hundred 754
fifty dollars for a candidate for the office of member of the 755
general assembly, or in excess of five hundred dollars for a 756
statewide candidate, for the purpose of financing communications 757
advocating the election or defeat of an identified candidate or 758
solicits without the candidate's express consent a contribution 759
for or against an identified candidate through public political 760
advertising, a statement shall appear or be presented in a clear 761
and conspicuous manner in the advertising that does both of the 762
following: 763

(a) Clearly indicates that the communication or public 764
political advertising is not authorized by the candidate or the 765

candidate's campaign committee; 766

(b) Clearly identifies the candidate, campaign committee, 767
political action committee, political contributing entity, or 768
legislative campaign fund that has paid for the communication or 769
public political advertising in accordance with section 3517.20 770
of the Revised Code. 771

(2) (a) Whenever any campaign committee, legislative 772
campaign fund, political action committee, political 773
contributing entity, or political party makes an independent 774
expenditure in support of or opposition to any candidate, the 775
committee, entity, fund, or party shall report the independent 776
expenditure and identify the candidate on a statement prescribed 777
by the secretary of state and filed by the committee, entity, 778
fund, or party as part of its statement of contributions and 779
expenditures pursuant to division (A) of section 3517.10 and 780
division (A) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code. 781

(b) Whenever any individual, partnership, or other entity, 782
except a corporation, labor organization, campaign committee, 783
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, political 784
contributing entity, or political party, makes one or more 785
independent expenditures in support of or opposition to any 786
candidate, the individual, partnership, or other entity shall 787
file with the secretary of state in the case of a statewide 788
candidate, or with the board of elections in the county in which 789
the candidate files the candidate's petitions for nomination or 790
election for district or local office, not later than the dates 791
specified in divisions (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 792
3517.10 of the Revised Code, and, except as otherwise provided 793
in that section, a statement itemizing all independent 794
expenditures made during the period since the close of business 795

on the last day reflected in the last previously filed such 796
statement, if any. The statement shall be made on a form 797
prescribed by the secretary of state or shall be filed by 798
electronic means of transmission pursuant to division ~~(C)~~ (E) of 799
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code as authorized or required 800
by that division. The statement shall indicate the date and the 801
amount of each independent expenditure and the candidate on 802
whose behalf it was made and shall be made under penalty of 803
election falsification. 804

(C) (1) Whenever a corporation, labor organization, 805
campaign committee, political action committee with ten or more 806
members, or legislative campaign fund makes an independent 807
expenditure, or whenever a political action committee with fewer 808
than ten members makes an independent expenditure in excess of 809
one hundred dollars for a local ballot issue or question, or in 810
excess of five hundred dollars for a statewide ballot issue or 811
question, for the purpose of financing communications advocating 812
support of or opposition to an identified ballot issue or 813
question or solicits without the express consent of the ballot 814
issue committee a contribution for or against an identified 815
ballot issue or question through public political advertising, a 816
statement shall appear or be presented in a clear and 817
conspicuous manner in the advertising that does both of the 818
following: 819

(a) Clearly indicates that the communication or public 820
political advertising is not authorized by the identified ballot 821
issue committee; 822

(b) Clearly identifies the corporation, labor 823
organization, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, or 824
political action committee that has paid for the communication 825

or public political advertising in accordance with section 826
3517.20 of the Revised Code. 827

(2) (a) Whenever any corporation, labor organization, 828
campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political party, 829
or political action committee makes an independent expenditure 830
in support of or opposition to any ballot issue or question, the 831
corporation or labor organization shall report the independent 832
expenditure in accordance with division (C) of section 3599.03 833
of the Revised Code, and the campaign committee, legislative 834
campaign fund, political party, or political action committee 835
shall report the independent expenditure and identify the ballot 836
issue or question on a statement prescribed by the secretary of 837
state and filed by the committee, fund, or party as part of its 838
statement of contributions and expenditures pursuant to division 839
(A) of section 3517.10 and division (A) of section 3517.11 of 840
the Revised Code. 841

(b) Whenever any individual, partnership, or other entity, 842
except a corporation, labor organization, campaign committee, 843
legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or 844
political party, makes one or more independent expenditures in 845
excess of one hundred dollars in support of or opposition to any 846
ballot issue or question, the individual, partnership, or other 847
entity shall file with the secretary of state in the case of a 848
statewide ballot issue or question, or with the board of 849
elections in the county that certifies the issue or question for 850
placement on the ballot in the case of a district or local issue 851
or question, not later than the dates specified in divisions (A) 852
(1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code, 853
and, except as otherwise provided in that section, a statement 854
itemizing all independent expenditures made during the period 855
since the close of business on the last day reflected in the 856

last previously filed such statement, if any. The statement 857
shall be made on a form prescribed by the secretary of state or 858
shall be filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to 859
division ~~(C)~~(E) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code as 860
authorized or required by that division. The statement shall 861
indicate the date and the amount of each independent expenditure 862
and the ballot issue or question in support of or opposition to 863
which it was made and shall be made under penalty of election 864
falsification. 865

(3) No person, campaign committee, legislative campaign 866
fund, political action committee, corporation, labor 867
organization, or other organization or association shall use or 868
cause to be used a false or fictitious name in making an 869
independent expenditure in support of or opposition to any 870
candidate or any ballot issue or question. A name is false or 871
fictitious if the person, campaign committee, legislative 872
campaign fund, political action committee, corporation, labor 873
organization, or other organization or association does not 874
actually exist or operate, if the corporation, labor 875
organization, or other organization or association has failed to 876
file a fictitious name or other registration with the secretary 877
of state, if it is required to do so, or if the person, campaign 878
committee, legislative campaign fund, or political action 879
committee has failed to file a designation of the appointment of 880
a treasurer, if it is required to do so by division (D)(1) of 881
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 882

(D) Any expenditure by a political party for the purpose 883
of financing communications advocating the election or defeat of 884
a candidate for judicial office shall be deemed to be an 885
independent expenditure subject to the provisions of this 886
section. 887

Sec. 3517.106. (A) As used in this section:	888
(1) "Statewide office" means any of the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of state, attorney general, chief justice of the supreme court, and justice of the supreme court.	889 890 891 892
(2) "Addendum to a statement" includes an amendment or other correction to that statement.	893 894
(B) (1) The secretary of state shall store <u>all of the following information</u> on computer the :	895 896
<u>(1) The information</u> contained in statements of contributions and expenditures and monthly statements required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Revised Code and in statements of independent expenditures required to be filed under section 3517.105 of the Revised Code by any of the following:	897 898 899 900 901 902
(a) The campaign committees of candidates for statewide office;	903 904
(b) The political action committees and political contributing entities described in division (A) (1) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code;	905 906 907
(c) Legislative campaign funds;	908
(d) State political parties;	909
(e) Individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor organizations, or other entities that make independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question;	910 911 912 913
(f) The campaign committees of candidates for the office	914

~~of member of the general assembly;~~ 915

~~(g) County political parties, with respect to their state~~ 916
~~candidate funds. with the secretary of state and the information~~ 917
~~transmitted to the secretary of state by boards of elections~~ 918
~~under division (E) (2) of this section;~~ 919

(2) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 920
information contained in disclosure of electioneering 921
communications statements required to be filed under section 922
3517.1011 of the Revised Code. 923

(3) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 924
information contained in deposit and disbursement statements 925
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 926
under section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code. 927

(4) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 928
gift and disbursement information contained in statements 929
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 930
under section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code. 931

(5) The ~~secretary of state shall store on computer the~~ 932
information contained in donation and disbursement statements 933
required to be filed with the office of the secretary of state 934
under section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code. 935

(C) (1) The secretary of state shall make available to the 936
campaign committees, political action committees, political 937
contributing entities, legislative campaign funds, political 938
parties, individuals, partnerships, corporations, labor 939
organizations, treasurers of transition funds, and other 940
~~entities described in division (B) of this section that are~~ 941
~~permitted or required to file statements by electronic means of~~ 942
~~transmission,~~ and to members of the news media and other 943

interested persons, for a reasonable fee, computer programs that 944
are compatible with the secretary of state's method of storing 945
the information contained in the statements. 946

(2) The secretary of state shall make the information 947
required to be stored under division (B) of this section 948
available on computer at the secretary of state's office so 949
that, to the maximum extent feasible, individuals may obtain at 950
the secretary of state's office any part or all of that 951
information for any given year, subject to the limitation 952
expressed in division (D) of this section. 953

(D) The secretary of state shall keep the information 954
stored on computer under division (B) of this section for at 955
least six years. 956

(E) (1) Subject to division ~~(H)~~ (J) of this section and 957
subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, 958
and verified the successful operation of any system the 959
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division ~~(H)~~ (F) (1) of 960
this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 961
3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 962
statements by electronic means of transmission, ~~the each of the~~ 963
following entities shall be permitted or required to file 964
statements by electronic means of transmission, as applicable: 965

(a) The campaign committee of each candidate for statewide 966
office may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 967
the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the 968
total amount of the contributions received or the total amount 969
of the expenditures made by the campaign committee for the 970
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 971
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 972
dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 973

transmission. 974

(b) A campaign committee of a candidate for the office of 975
member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a 976
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals may file 977
the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 978
in accordance with division (A) (2) of section 3517.11 of the 979
Revised Code or by electronic means of transmission to the 980
office of the secretary of state or, if the total amount of the 981
contributions received by the campaign committee for the 982
applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of 983
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand 984
dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of 985
transmission to the office of the secretary of state. 986

(c) A campaign committee of a candidate for an office 987
other than a statewide office, the office of member of the 988
general assembly, or the office of judge of a court of appeals 989
may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the 990
Revised Code by electronic means of transmission to the 991
secretary of state or the board of elections, as applicable. 992

(d) A political action committee and a political 993
contributing entity described in division (A) (1) of section 994
3517.11 of the Revised Code, a legislative campaign fund, and a 995
state political party may file the statements prescribed by 996
section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of 997
transmission to the office of the secretary of state or, if the 998
total amount of the contributions received or the total amount 999
of the expenditures made by the political action committee, 1000
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1001
state political party for the applicable reporting period as 1002
specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1003

exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file those statements by 1004
electronic means of transmission. 1005

(e) A county political party shall file the statements 1006
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with respect 1007
to its state candidate fund by electronic means of transmission 1008
to the office of the secretary of state. 1009

(f) A county political party may file all other statements 1010
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic 1011
means of transmission to the board of elections. 1012

(g) A political action committee or political contributing 1013
entity described in division (A) (3) of section 3517.11 of the 1014
Revised Code may file the statements prescribed by section 1015
3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission 1016
to the board of elections. 1017

(h) Any individual, partnership, or other entity that 1018
makes independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a 1019
statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question as 1020
provided in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 1021
of the Revised Code may file the statement specified in that 1022
division by electronic means of transmission to the office of 1023
the secretary of state or, if the total amount of independent 1024
expenditures made during the reporting period under that 1025
division exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file the statement 1026
specified in that division by electronic means of transmission. 1027

(i) Any individual, partnership, or other entity that 1028
makes independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a 1029
candidate or ballot issue other than a statewide candidate or a 1030
statewide ballot issue as provided in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) 1031
(2) (b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code may file the 1032

statement specified in that division by electronic means of 1033
transmission to the board of elections. 1034

(2) A board of elections that receives a statement by 1035
electronic means of transmission shall transmit that statement 1036
to the secretary of state within five business days after 1037
receiving the statement. If the board receives an addendum or an 1038
amended statement from an entity that filed a statement with the 1039
board by electronic means of transmission, the board shall 1040
transmit the addendum or amended statement to the secretary of 1041
state not later than the close of business on the day the board 1042
received the addendum or amended statement. 1043

(3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in ~~this division~~ (E) 1044
(3) (b) of this section, within five business days after a 1045
statement filed ~~by a campaign committee of a candidate for~~ 1046
~~statewide office under division (E) (1) of this section~~ is 1047
received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means 1048
of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available 1049
online to the public through the internet, as provided in 1050
division ~~(F)~~ (G) of this section, the contribution and 1051
expenditure information in that statement. ~~The~~ 1052

(b) The secretary of state shall not make available online 1053
to the public through the internet any contribution or 1054
expenditure information contained in a statement for any 1055
candidate until the secretary of state is able to make available 1056
online to the public through the internet the contribution and 1057
expenditure information for all candidates for a particular 1058
office, or until the applicable filing deadline for that 1059
statement has passed, whichever is sooner. As soon as the 1060
secretary of state has available all of the contribution and 1061
expenditure information for all candidates for a particular 1062

office, or as soon as the applicable filing deadline for a 1063
statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the secretary of 1064
state shall simultaneously make available online to the public 1065
through the internet the information for all candidates for that 1066
office. 1067

(4) (a) If a statement filed by electronic means of 1068
transmission is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the 1069
examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy 1070
pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1071
Code, the ~~campaign committee entity that filed the statement~~ 1072
shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to 1073
the statement that provides the information necessary to 1074
complete or correct the statement or, if required ~~by the~~ 1075
~~secretary of state~~ under that division, an amended statement. 1076

(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state 1077
receives ~~from a campaign committee of a candidate for statewide-~~ 1078
~~office~~ an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by 1079
electronic or other means of transmission ~~under this division or~~ 1080
~~division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code,~~ the 1081
secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure 1082
information in the addendum or amended statement available 1083
online to the public through the internet as provided in 1084
division ~~(I)~~ (G) of this section. 1085

~~(2)~~ Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1086
~~tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the~~ 1087
~~secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of~~ 1088
~~this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section~~ 1089
~~3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance~~ 1090
~~statements by electronic means of transmission, a political-~~ 1091
~~action committee and a political contributing entity described~~ 1092

~~in division (B) (1) (b) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, and a state political party may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code by electronic means of transmission or, if the total amount of the contributions received or the total amount of the expenditures made by the political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or state political party for the applicable reporting period as specified in division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file those statements by electronic means of transmission.~~

~~Within five business days after a statement filed by a political action committee or a political contributing entity described in division (B) (1) (b) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party is received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that statement.~~

~~If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the political action committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or state political party shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.~~

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state receives from a political action committee or a political contributing entity described in division (B) (1) (b) of this section, a legislative campaign fund, or a state political party an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the contribution and expenditure information in the addendum or amended statement available online to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section.~~ 1123
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~~(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, a county political party shall file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with respect to its state candidate fund by electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state.~~ 1134
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~~Within five business days after a statement filed by a county political party with respect to its state candidate fund is received by the secretary of state by electronic means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the contribution and expenditure information in that statement.~~ 1144
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~~If a statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and~~ 1151
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~~accuracy pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of
the Revised Code, a county political party shall file by
electronic means of transmission any addendum to the statement
that provides the information necessary to complete or correct
the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under
that division, an amended statement.~~

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state
receives from a county political party an addendum to the
statement or an amended statement by electronic means of
transmission under this division or division (B) (3) (a) of
section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state
shall make the contribution and expenditure information in the
addendum or amended statement available online to the public
through the internet as provided in division (I) of this
section.~~

~~(F) (1) Subject to division (L) of this section and subject
to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and
verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of
state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of this section and
divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised
Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic
means of transmission, a campaign committee of a candidate for
the office of member of the general assembly or a campaign
committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a court of
appeals may file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of
the Revised Code in accordance with division (A) (2) of section
3517.11 of the Revised Code or by electronic means of
transmission to the office of the secretary of state or, if the
total amount of the contributions received by the campaign
committee for the applicable reporting period as specified in
division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code exceeds ten~~

~~thousand dollars, shall file those statements by electronic~~ 1184
~~means of transmission to the office of the secretary of state.~~ 1185

~~Except as otherwise provided in this division, within five~~ 1186
~~business days after a statement filed by a campaign committee of~~ 1187
~~a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or~~ 1188
~~a campaign committee of a candidate for the office of judge of a~~ 1189
~~court of appeals is received by the secretary of state by~~ 1190
~~electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of~~ 1191
~~state shall make available online to the public through the~~ 1192
~~internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the~~ 1193
~~contribution and expenditure information in that statement. The~~ 1194
~~secretary of state shall not make available online to the public~~ 1195
~~through the internet any contribution or expenditure information~~ 1196
~~contained in a statement for any candidate until the secretary~~ 1197
~~of state is able to make available online to the public through~~ 1198
~~the internet the contribution and expenditure information for~~ 1199
~~all candidates for a particular office, or until the applicable~~ 1200
~~filing deadline for that statement has passed, whichever is~~ 1201
~~sooner. As soon as the secretary of state has available all of~~ 1202
~~the contribution and expenditure information for all candidates~~ 1203
~~for a particular office, or as soon as the applicable filing~~ 1204
~~deadline for a statement has passed, whichever is sooner, the~~ 1205
~~secretary of state shall simultaneously make available online to~~ 1206
~~the public through the internet the information for all~~ 1207
~~candidates for that office.~~ 1208

~~If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission~~ 1209
~~is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of~~ 1210
~~the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division~~ 1211
~~(B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the campaign~~ 1212
~~committee shall file by electronic means of transmission to the~~ 1213
~~office of the secretary of state any addendum to the statement~~ 1214

~~that provides the information necessary to complete or correct
the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under
that division, an amended statement.~~ 1215
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~~Within five business days after the secretary of state
receives from a campaign committee of a candidate for the office
of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals an
addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic
or other means of transmission under this division or division
(B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary
of state shall make the contribution and expenditure information
in the addendum or amended statement available online to the
public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this
section.~~ 1218
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~~(2)-(5) If a campaign committee for the office of member
of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a candidate
for the office of judge of a court of appeals files a statement,
addendum, or amended statement is not filed by electronic means
of transmission to the office of the secretary of state but is
filed by printed version only under division (A) (2) of section
3517.11 of the Revised Code with the appropriate board of
elections, the campaign committee of a candidate for the office
of member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals shall
file two copies of the printed version of the statement,
addendum, or amended statement with the board of elections. The
board of elections shall send one of those copies by certified
mail or an electronic copy to the secretary of state before the
close of business on the day the board of elections receives the
statement, addendum, or amended statement.~~ 1229
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~~(G) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the secretary of state prescribes pursuant to division (H) (1) of this section and divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission, any individual, partnership, or other entity that makes independent expenditures in support of or opposition to a statewide candidate or a statewide ballot issue or question as provided in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code may file the statement specified in that division by electronic means of transmission or, if the total amount of independent expenditures made during the reporting period under that division exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall file the statement specified in that division by electronic means of transmission.~~

~~Within five business days after a statement filed by an individual, partnership, or other entity is received by the secretary of state by electronic or other means of transmission, the secretary of state shall make available online to the public through the internet, as provided in division (I) of this section, the expenditure information in that statement.~~

~~If a statement filed by electronic means of transmission is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after the examination of the statement for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the individual, partnership, or other entity shall file by electronic means of transmission any addendum to the statement that provides the information necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required by the secretary of state under that division, an amended statement.~~

~~Within five business days after the secretary of state receives from an individual, partnership, or other entity described in division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 of the Revised Code an addendum to the statement or an amended statement by electronic or other means of transmission under this division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall make the expenditure information in the addendum or amended statement available online to the public through the internet as provided in division (I) of this section.~~

~~(H)~~ (F) (1) The secretary of state, by rule adopted pursuant to section 3517.23 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe one or more techniques by which a person who executes and transmits to the secretary of state or a board of elections by electronic means a statement of contributions and expenditures, a statement of independent expenditures, a disclosure of electioneering communications statement, a deposit and disbursement statement, a gift and disbursement statement, or a donation and disbursement statement, an addendum to any of those statements, an amended statement of contributions and expenditures, an amended statement of independent expenditures, an amended disclosure of electioneering communications statement, an amended deposit and disbursement statement, an amended gift and disbursement statement, or an amended donation and disbursement statement, under this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised Code shall electronically sign the statement, addendum, or amended statement. Any technique prescribed by the secretary of state pursuant to this division shall create an electronic signature that satisfies all of the following:

(a) It is unique to the signer.

(b) It objectively identifies the signer. 1306

(c) It involves the use of a signature device or other 1307
means or method that is under the sole control of the signer and 1308
that cannot be readily duplicated or compromised. 1309

(d) It is created and linked to the electronic record to 1310
which it relates in a manner that, if the record or signature is 1311
intentionally or unintentionally changed after signing, the 1312
electronic signature is invalidated. 1313

(2) An electronic signature prescribed by the secretary of 1314
state under division ~~(H)~~(F) (1) of this section shall be attached 1315
to or associated with the statement of contributions and 1316
expenditures, the statement of independent expenditures, the 1317
disclosure of electioneering communications statement, the 1318
deposit and disbursement statement, the gift and disbursement 1319
statement, or the donation and disbursement statement, the 1320
addendum to any of those statements, the amended statement of 1321
contributions and expenditures, the amended statement of 1322
independent expenditures, the amended disclosure of 1323
electioneering communications statement, the amended deposit and 1324
disbursement statement, the amended gift and disbursement 1325
statement, or the amended donation and disbursement statement 1326
that is executed and transmitted by electronic means by the 1327
person to whom the electronic signature is attributed. The 1328
electronic signature that is attached to or associated with the 1329
statement, addendum, or amended statement under this division 1330
shall be binding on all persons and for all purposes under the 1331
campaign finance reporting law as if the signature had been 1332
handwritten in ink on a printed form. 1333

~~(I)~~(G) The secretary of state shall make all of the 1334
following information available online to the public by any 1335

means that are searchable, viewable, and accessible through the 1336
internet: 1337

(1) The contribution and expenditure, the contribution and 1338
disbursement, the deposit and disbursement, the gift and 1339
disbursement, or the donation and disbursement information in 1340
all statements, all addenda to the statements, and all amended 1341
statements that are filed with the secretary of state by 1342
electronic or other means of transmission under this section or 1343
section 3517.10, 3517.105, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, 1344
3517.1014, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code~~available online to~~ 1345
~~the public by any means that are searchable, viewable, and~~ 1346
~~accessible through the internet;~~ 1347

(2) The contribution and expenditure or the deposit and 1348
disbursement information in all statements that are filed with a 1349
board of elections by electronic means of transmission, and in 1350
all addenda to those statements and all amended versions of 1351
those statements, under this section or section 3517.10, 1352
3517.105, 3517.1012, or 3517.11 of the Revised Code. 1353

~~(J)~~(H) (1) As used in this division, "library" means a 1354
library that is open to the public and that is one of the 1355
following: 1356

(a) A library that is maintained and regulated under 1357
section 715.13 of the Revised Code; 1358

(b) A library that is created, maintained, and regulated 1359
under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code. 1360

(2) The secretary of state shall notify all libraries of 1361
the location on the internet at which the contribution and 1362
expenditure, contribution and disbursement, deposit and 1363
disbursement, gift and disbursement, or donation and 1364

disbursement information in campaign finance statements required 1365
to be made available online to the public through the internet 1366
pursuant to division ~~(I)~~(G) of this section may be accessed. 1367

If that location is part of the world wide web and if the 1368
secretary of state has notified a library of that world wide web 1369
location as required by this division, the library shall include 1370
a link to that world wide web location on each internet- 1371
connected computer it maintains that is accessible to the 1372
public. 1373

(3) If the system the secretary of state prescribes for 1374
the filing of campaign finance statements by electronic means of 1375
transmission pursuant to division ~~(H)~~(F) (1) of this section and 1376
divisions (C) (6) (b) and (D) (6) of section 3517.10 of the Revised 1377
Code includes filing those statements through the internet via 1378
the world wide web, the secretary of state shall notify all 1379
libraries of the world wide web location at which those 1380
statements may be filed. 1381

If those statements may be filed through the internet via 1382
the world wide web and if the secretary of state has notified a 1383
library of that world wide web location as required by this 1384
division, the library shall include a link to that world wide 1385
web location on each internet-connected computer it maintains 1386
that is accessible to the public. 1387

~~(K)~~(I) It is an affirmative defense to a complaint or 1388
charge brought against any campaign committee, political action 1389
committee, political contributing entity, legislative campaign 1390
fund, or political party, any individual, partnership, or other 1391
entity, any person making disbursements to pay the direct costs 1392
of producing or airing electioneering communications, or any 1393
treasurer of a transition fund, for the failure to file by 1394

electronic means of transmission a campaign finance statement as 1395
required by this section or section 3517.10, 3517.105, 1396
3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, or 3517.1014 of the Revised 1397
Code that all of the following apply to the campaign committee, 1398
political action committee, political contributing entity, 1399
legislative campaign fund, or political party, the individual, 1400
partnership, or other entity, the person making disbursements to 1401
pay the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 1402
communications, or the treasurer of a transition fund that 1403
failed to so file: 1404

(1) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1405
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1406
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, 1407
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1408
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1409
treasurer of a transition fund attempted to file by electronic 1410
means of transmission the required statement prior to the 1411
deadline set forth in the applicable section. 1412

(2) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1413
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1414
political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, 1415
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1416
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1417
treasurer of a transition fund was unable to file by electronic 1418
means of transmission due to an expected or unexpected shutdown 1419
of the whole or part of the electronic campaign finance 1420
statement-filing system, such as for maintenance or because of 1421
hardware, software, or network connection failure. 1422

(3) The campaign committee, political action committee, 1423
political contributing entity, legislative campaign fund, or 1424

political party, the individual, partnership, or other entity, 1425
the person making disbursements to pay the direct costs of 1426
producing or airing electioneering communications, or the 1427
treasurer of a transition fund filed by electronic means of 1428
transmission the required statement within a reasonable period 1429
of time after being unable to so file it under the circumstance 1430
described in division ~~(K)~~(I) (2) of this section. 1431

~~(H)~~(J) (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules 1432
pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to permit a 1433
campaign committee of a candidate for statewide office that 1434
makes expenditures of less than twenty-five thousand dollars 1435
during the filing period or a campaign committee for the office 1436
of member of the general assembly or the office of judge of a 1437
court of appeals that would otherwise be required to file 1438
campaign finance statements by electronic means of transmission 1439
under division (E) ~~or (F)~~ of this section to file those 1440
statements by paper with the office of the secretary of state. 1441
Those rules shall provide for all of the following: 1442

(a) An eligible campaign committee that wishes to file a 1443
campaign finance statement by paper instead of by electronic 1444
means of transmission shall file the statement on paper with the 1445
office of the secretary of state not sooner than twenty-four 1446
hours after the end of the filing period set forth in section 1447
3517.10 of the Revised Code that is covered by the applicable 1448
statement. 1449

(b) The statement shall be accompanied by a fee, the 1450
amount of which the secretary of state shall determine by rule. 1451
The amount of the fee established under this division shall not 1452
exceed the data entry and data verification costs the secretary 1453
of state will incur to convert the information on the statement 1454

to an electronic format as required under division ~~(I)~~(G) of 1455
this section. 1456

(c) The secretary of state shall arrange for the 1457
information in campaign finance statements filed pursuant to 1458
division ~~(I)~~(J) of this section to be made available online to 1459
the public through the internet in the same manner, and at the 1460
same times, as information is made available under divisions 1461
(E), ~~(F)~~, and ~~(I)~~(G) of this section for candidates whose 1462
campaign committees file those statements by electronic means of 1463
transmission. 1464

(d) The candidate of an eligible campaign committee that 1465
intends to file a campaign finance statement pursuant to 1466
division ~~(I)~~(J) of this section shall file a notice indicating 1467
that the candidate's campaign committee intends to so file and 1468
stating that filing the statement by electronic means of 1469
transmission would constitute a hardship for the candidate or 1470
for the eligible campaign committee. 1471

(e) An eligible campaign committee that files a campaign 1472
finance statement on paper pursuant to division ~~(I)~~(J) of this 1473
section shall review the contribution and information made 1474
available online by the secretary of state with respect to that 1475
paper filing and shall notify the secretary of state of any 1476
errors with respect to that filing that appear in the data made 1477
available on that web site. 1478

(f) If an eligible campaign committee whose candidate has 1479
filed a notice in accordance with rules adopted under division 1480
~~(I)~~(J) (1) (d) of this section subsequently fails to file that 1481
statement on paper by the applicable deadline established in 1482
rules adopted under division ~~(I)~~(J) (1) (a) of this section, 1483
penalties for the late filing of the campaign finance statement 1484

shall apply to that campaign committee for each day after that 1485
paper filing deadline, as if the campaign committee had filed 1486
the statement after the applicable deadline set forth in 1487
division (A) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code. 1488

(2) The process for permitting campaign committees that 1489
would otherwise be required to file campaign finance statements 1490
by electronic means of transmission to file those statements on 1491
paper with the office of the secretary of state that is required 1492
to be developed under division ~~(I)~~(J)(1) of this section shall 1493
be in effect and available for use by eligible campaign 1494
committees for all campaign finance statements that are required 1495
to be filed on or after June 30, 2005. Notwithstanding any 1496
provision of the Revised Code to the contrary, if the process 1497
the secretary of state is required to develop under division (L) 1498
(1) of this section is not in effect and available for use on 1499
and after June 30, 2005, all penalties for the failure of 1500
campaign committees to file campaign finance statements by 1501
electronic means of transmission shall be suspended until such 1502
time as that process is in effect and available for use. 1503

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to 1504
the contrary, any eligible campaign committee that files 1505
campaign finance statements on paper with the office of the 1506
secretary of state pursuant to division ~~(I)~~(J)(1) of this 1507
section shall be deemed to have filed those campaign finance 1508
statements by electronic means of transmission to the office of 1509
the secretary of state. 1510

Sec. 3517.1011. (A) As used in this section: 1511

(1) "Address" has the same meaning as in section 3517.10 1512
of the Revised Code. 1513

(2) "Broadcast, cable, or satellite communication" means a 1514
communication that is publicly distributed by a television 1515
station, radio station, cable television system, or satellite 1516
system. 1517

(3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in section 3501.01 1518
of the Revised Code. 1519

(4) "Contribution" means any loan, gift, deposit, 1520
forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or 1521
transfer of funds or of anything of value, including a transfer 1522
of funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's 1523
estate, and the payment by any person other than the person to 1524
whom the services are rendered for the personal services of 1525
another person, that is made, received, or used to pay the 1526
direct costs of producing or airing electioneering 1527
communications. 1528

(5) (a) "Coordinated electioneering communication" means 1529
any electioneering communication that is made pursuant to any 1530
arrangement, coordination, or direction by a candidate or a 1531
candidate's campaign committee, by an officer, agent, employee, 1532
or consultant of a candidate or a candidate's campaign 1533
committee, or by a former officer, former agent, former 1534
employee, or former consultant of a candidate or a candidate's 1535
campaign committee prior to the airing, broadcasting, or 1536
cablecasting of the communication. An electioneering 1537
communication is presumed to be a "coordinated electioneering 1538
communication" when it is either of the following: 1539

(i) Based on information about a candidate's plans, 1540
projects, or needs provided to the person making the 1541
disbursement by the candidate or the candidate's campaign 1542
committee, by an officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the 1543

candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, or by a former 1544
officer, former agent, former employee, or former consultant of 1545
the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, with a view 1546
toward having the communication made; 1547

(ii) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, 1548
authorized to raise or expend funds on behalf of a candidate or 1549
the candidate's campaign committee, who is, or has been, an 1550
officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the candidate or of 1551
the candidate's campaign committee, or who is, or has been, 1552
receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the 1553
candidate or the candidate's campaign committee or from an 1554
officer, agent, employee, or consultant of the candidate or of 1555
the candidate's campaign committee. 1556

(b) An electioneering communication shall not be presumed 1557
to be a "coordinated electioneering communication" under 1558
division (A) (5) (a) (ii) of this section if the communication is 1559
made through any person who provides a service that does not 1560
affect the content of the communication, such as communications 1561
placed through the efforts of a media buyer, unless that person 1562
also affects the content of the communication. 1563

(6) "Disclosure date" means both of the following: 1564

(a) The first date during any calendar year by which a 1565
person makes disbursements for the direct costs of producing or 1566
airing electioneering communications aggregating in excess of 1567
ten thousand dollars; 1568

(b) The same day of the week of each remaining week in the 1569
same calendar year as the day of the week of the initial 1570
disclosure date established under division (A) (6) (a) of this 1571
section, if, during that remaining week, the person makes 1572

disbursements for the direct costs of producing or airing 1573
electioneering communications aggregating in excess of one 1574
dollar. 1575

(7) (a) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, 1576
cable, or satellite communication that refers to a clearly 1577
identified candidate and that is made during either of the 1578
following periods of time: 1579

(i) If the person becomes a candidate before the day of 1580
the primary election at which candidates will be nominated for 1581
election to that office, between the date that the person 1582
becomes a candidate and the thirtieth day prior to that primary 1583
election, and between the date of the primary election and the 1584
thirtieth day prior to the general election at which a candidate 1585
will be elected to that office; 1586

(ii) If the person becomes a candidate after the day of 1587
the primary election at which candidates were nominated for 1588
election to that office, between the date of the primary 1589
election and the thirtieth day prior to the general election at 1590
which a candidate will be elected to that office. 1591

(b) "Electioneering communication" does not include any of 1592
the following: 1593

(i) A communication that is publicly disseminated through 1594
a means of communication other than a broadcast, cable, or 1595
satellite television or radio station. For example, 1596
"electioneering communication" does not include communications 1597
appearing in print media, including a newspaper or magazine, 1598
handbill, brochure, bumper sticker, yard sign, poster, 1599
billboard, and other written materials, including mailings; 1600
communications over the internet, including electronic mail; or 1601

telephone communications. 1602

(ii) A communication that appears in a news story, 1603
commentary, public service announcement, bona fide news 1604
programming, or editorial distributed through the facilities of 1605
any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station, 1606
unless those facilities are owned or controlled by any political 1607
party, political committee, or candidate; 1608

(iii) A communication that constitutes an expenditure or 1609
an independent expenditure under section 3517.01 of the Revised 1610
Code; 1611

(iv) A communication that constitutes a candidate debate 1612
or forum or that solely promotes a candidate debate or forum and 1613
is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or 1614
forum. 1615

(8) "Filing date" has the same meaning as in section 1616
3517.109 of the Revised Code. 1617

(9) "Immigration and Nationality Act" means the 1618
Immigration and Nationality Act, 110 Stat. 309 (1996), 8 U.S.C. 1619
1101 et seq., as amended. 1620

(10) "Person" has the same meaning as in section 1.59 of 1621
the Revised Code and includes any political organization 1622
considered exempt from income taxation under section 527 of the 1623
Internal Revenue Code. 1624

(11) "Political committee" means any of the following: 1625

(a) Any committee, club, association, or other group of 1626
persons that receives contributions aggregating in excess of one 1627
thousand dollars during a calendar year or that makes 1628
expenditures aggregating in excess of one thousand dollars 1629

during a calendar year;	1630
(b) Any separate segregated fund;	1631
(c) Any state, county, or local committee of a political party that does any of the following:	1632
(i) Receives contributions aggregating in excess of five thousand dollars during a calendar year;	1633
(ii) Makes payments that do not constitute contributions or expenditures aggregating in excess of five thousand dollars during a calendar year;	1634
(iii) Makes contributions or expenditures aggregating in excess of one thousand dollars during a calendar year.	1635
(12) "Publicly distributed" means aired, broadcast, cablecast, or otherwise disseminated for a fee.	1636
(13) "Refers to a clearly identified candidate" means that the candidate's name, nickname, photograph, or drawing appears, or the identity of the candidate is otherwise apparent through an unambiguous reference to the person such as "the chief justice," "the governor," "member of the Ohio senate," "member of the Ohio house of representatives," "county auditor," "mayor," or "township trustee" or through an unambiguous reference to the person's status as a candidate.	1637
(B) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be considered to have made a disbursement if the person has entered into a contract to make the disbursement.	1638
(C) Any person intending to make a disbursement or disbursements for the direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications, prior to making the first disbursement for the direct costs of producing or airing an	1639
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electioneering communication, shall file a notice with the 1658
office of the secretary of state that the person is intending to 1659
make such disbursements. 1660

(D) (1) Every person that makes a disbursement or 1661
disbursements for the direct costs of producing and airing 1662
electioneering communications aggregating in excess of ten 1663
thousand dollars during any calendar year shall file, within 1664
twenty-four hours of each disclosure date, a disclosure of 1665
electioneering communications statement containing the following 1666
information: 1667

(a) The full name and address of the person making the 1668
disbursement, of any person sharing or exercising direction or 1669
control over the activities of the person making the 1670
disbursement, and of the custodian of the books and accounts of 1671
the person making the disbursement; 1672

(b) The principal place of business of the person making 1673
the disbursement, if not an individual; 1674

(c) The amount of each disbursement of more than one 1675
dollar during the period covered by the statement and the 1676
identity of the person to whom the disbursement was made; 1677

(d) The nominations or elections to which the 1678
electioneering communications pertain and the names, if known, 1679
of the candidates identified or to be identified; 1680

(e) If the disbursements were paid out of a segregated 1681
bank account that consists of funds contributed solely by 1682
individuals who are United States citizens or nationals or 1683
lawfully admitted for permanent residence as defined in section 1684
101(a) (20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act directly to 1685
the account for electioneering communications, the information 1686

specified in division (D) (2) of this section for all 1687
contributors who contributed an aggregate amount of two hundred 1688
dollars or more to the segregated bank account and whose 1689
contributions were used for making the disbursement or 1690
disbursements required to be reported under division (D) of this 1691
section during the period covered by the statement. Nothing in 1692
this division prohibits or shall be construed to prohibit the 1693
use of funds in such a segregated bank account for a purpose 1694
other than electioneering communications. 1695

(f) If the disbursements were paid out of funds not 1696
described in division (D) (1) (e) of this section, the information 1697
specified in division (D) (2) of this section for all 1698
contributors who contributed an aggregate amount of two hundred 1699
dollars or more to the person making the disbursement and whose 1700
contributions were used for making the disbursement or 1701
disbursements required to be reported under division (D) of this 1702
section during the period covered by the statement. 1703

(2) For each contributor for which information is required 1704
to be reported under division (D) (1) (e) or (f) of this section, 1705
all of the following shall be reported: 1706

(a) The month, day, and year that the contributor made the 1707
contribution or contributions aggregating two hundred dollars or 1708
more; 1709

(b) (i) The full name and address of the contributor, and, 1710
if the contributor is a political action committee, the 1711
registration number assigned to the political action committee 1712
under division (D) (1) of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code; 1713

(ii) If the contributor is an individual, the name of the 1714
individual's current employer, if any, or, if the individual is 1715

self-employed, the individual's occupation and the name of the 1716
individual's business, if any; 1717

(iii) If the contribution is transmitted pursuant to 1718
section 3599.031 of the Revised Code from amounts deducted from 1719
the wages and salaries of two or more employees that exceed in 1720
the aggregate one hundred dollars during the period specified in 1721
division (D)(1)(e) or (f) of this section, as applicable, the 1722
full name of the employees' employer and the full name of the 1723
labor organization of which the employees are members, if any. 1724

(c) A description of the contribution, if other than 1725
money; 1726

(d) The value in dollars and cents of the contribution. 1727

(3) Subject to the secretary of state having implemented, 1728
tested, and verified the successful operation of any system the 1729
secretary of state prescribes pursuant to divisions (C)(6)(b) 1730
and (D)(6) of section 3517.10 and division ~~(H)~~(F)(1) of section 1731
3517.106 of the Revised Code for the filing of campaign finance 1732
statements by electronic means of transmission, a person shall 1733
file the disclosure of electioneering communications statement 1734
prescribed under divisions (D)(1) and (2) of this section by 1735
electronic means of transmission to the office of the secretary 1736
of state. 1737

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1738
receives a disclosure of electioneering communications statement 1739
under this division, the secretary of state shall make available 1740
online to the public through the internet, as provided in 1741
division ~~(I)~~(G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the 1742
contribution and disbursement information in that statement. 1743

If a filed disclosure of electioneering communications 1744

statement is found to be incomplete or inaccurate after its 1745
examination for completeness and accuracy pursuant to division 1746
(B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised Code, the person 1747
shall file by electronic means of transmission to the office of 1748
the secretary of state any addendum, amendment, or other 1749
correction to the statement that provides the information 1750
necessary to complete or correct the statement or, if required 1751
by the secretary of state under that division, an amended 1752
statement. 1753

Within five business days after the secretary of state 1754
receives an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1755
disclosure of electioneering communications statement or an 1756
amended statement by electronic means of transmission under this 1757
division or division (B) (3) (a) of section 3517.11 of the Revised 1758
Code, the secretary of state shall make the contribution and 1759
disbursement information in the addendum, amendment, or other 1760
correction to the statement or amended statement available 1761
online to the public through the internet as provided in 1762
division ~~(F)~~ (G) of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code. 1763

(E) (1) Any person who makes a contribution for the purpose 1764
of funding the direct costs of producing or airing an 1765
electioneering communication under this section shall provide 1766
the person's full name and address to the recipient of the 1767
contribution at the time the contribution is made. 1768

(2) Any individual who makes a contribution or 1769
contributions aggregating two hundred dollars or more for the 1770
purpose of funding the direct costs of producing or airing an 1771
electioneering communication under this section shall provide 1772
the name of the individual's current employer, if any, or, if 1773
the individual is self-employed, the individual's occupation and 1774

the name of the individual's business, if any, to the recipient 1775
of the contribution at the time the contribution is made. 1776

(F) In each electioneering communication, a statement 1777
shall appear or be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner 1778
that does both of the following: 1779

(1) Clearly indicates that the electioneering 1780
communication is not authorized by the candidate or the 1781
candidate's campaign committee; 1782

(2) Clearly identifies the person making the disbursement 1783
for the electioneering communication in accordance with section 1784
3517.20 of the Revised Code. 1785

(G) Any coordinated electioneering communication is an in- 1786
kind contribution, subject to the applicable contribution limits 1787
prescribed in section 3517.102 of the Revised Code, to the 1788
candidate by the person making disbursements to pay the direct 1789
costs of producing or airing the communication. 1790

(H) No person shall make, during the thirty days preceding 1791
a primary election or during the thirty days preceding a general 1792
election, any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that 1793
refers to a clearly identified candidate using any contributions 1794
received from a corporation or labor organization. 1795

Sec. 3517.11. (A) (1) Campaign committees of candidates for 1796
statewide office or the state board of education, political 1797
action committees or political contributing entities that make 1798
contributions to campaign committees of candidates that are 1799
required to file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of 1800
the Revised Code with the secretary of state, political action 1801
committees or political contributing entities that make 1802
contributions to campaign committees of candidates for member of 1803

the general assembly, political action committees or political
contributing entities that make contributions to state and
national political parties and to legislative campaign funds,
political action committees or political contributing entities
that receive contributions or make expenditures in connection
with a statewide ballot issue, political action committees or
political contributing entities that make contributions to other
political action committees or political contributing entities,
political parties, and campaign committees, except as set forth
in division (A) (3) of this section, legislative campaign funds,
and state and national political parties shall file the
statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code
with the secretary of state.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in division ~~(F)~~(E) of
section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, campaign committees of
candidates for all other offices shall file the statements
prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code with the board
of elections where their candidates are required to file their
petitions or other papers for nomination or election.

(b) A campaign committee of a candidate for office of
member of the general assembly or a campaign committee of a
candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals shall
file two copies of the printed version of any statement,
addendum, or amended statement if the committee does not file
pursuant to division ~~(F)~~(E) or ~~(L)~~(J) of section 3517.106
of the Revised Code but files by printed version only with the
appropriate board of elections. The board of elections shall
send one of those copies by certified mail or an electronic copy
to the secretary of state before the close of business on the
day the board of elections receives the statement, addendum, or
amended statement.

(3) Political action committees or political contributing 1835
entities that only contribute to a county political party, 1836
contribute to campaign committees of candidates whose nomination 1837
or election is to be submitted only to electors within a county, 1838
subdivision, or district, excluding candidates for member of the 1839
general assembly, and receive contributions or make expenditures 1840
in connection with ballot questions or issues to be submitted 1841
only to electors within a county, subdivision, or district shall 1842
file the statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised 1843
Code with the board of elections in that county or in the county 1844
contained in whole or part within the subdivision or district 1845
having a population greater than that of any other county 1846
contained in whole or part within that subdivision or district, 1847
as the case may be. 1848

(4) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) ~~(3)~~ (1)(e) 1849
of section 3517.106 of the Revised Code with respect to state 1850
candidate funds, county political parties shall file the 1851
statements prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code 1852
with the board of elections of their respective counties. 1853

(B) (1) The official with whom petitions and other papers 1854
for nomination or election to public office are filed shall 1855
furnish each candidate at the time of that filing a copy of 1856
sections 3517.01, 3517.08 to 3517.11, 3517.13 to 3517.993, 1857
3599.03, and 3599.031 of the Revised Code and any other 1858
materials that the secretary of state may require. Each 1859
candidate receiving the materials shall acknowledge their 1860
receipt in writing. 1861

(2) On or before the tenth day before the dates on which 1862
statements are required to be filed by section 3517.10 of the 1863
Revised Code, every candidate subject to the provisions of this 1864

section and sections 3517.10 and 3517.106 of the Revised Code 1865
shall be notified of the requirements and applicable penalties 1866
of those sections. The secretary of state, by certified mail, 1867
return receipt requested, shall notify all candidates required 1868
to file those statements with the secretary of state's office. 1869
The board of elections of every county shall notify by first 1870
class mail any candidate who has personally appeared at the 1871
office of the board on or before the tenth day before the 1872
statements are required to be filed and signed a form, to be 1873
provided by the secretary of state, attesting that the candidate 1874
has been notified of the candidate's obligations under the 1875
campaign finance law. The board shall forward the completed form 1876
to the secretary of state. The board shall use certified mail, 1877
return receipt requested, to notify all other candidates 1878
required to file those statements with it. 1879

(3) (a) Any statement required to be filed under sections 1880
3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code that is found to be 1881
incomplete or inaccurate by the officer to whom it is submitted 1882
shall be accepted on a conditional basis, and the person who 1883
filed it shall be notified by certified mail as to the 1884
incomplete or inaccurate nature of the statement. The secretary 1885
of state may examine statements filed for candidates for the 1886
office of member of the general assembly and candidates for the 1887
office of judge of a court of appeals for completeness and 1888
accuracy. The secretary of state shall examine for completeness 1889
and accuracy statements that campaign committees of candidates 1890
for the office of member of the general assembly and campaign 1891
committees of candidates for the office of judge of a court of 1892
appeals file pursuant to division ~~(F)~~ (E) or ~~(I)~~ (J) of section 1893
3517.106 of the Revised Code. If an officer at the board of 1894
elections where a statement filed for a candidate for the office 1895

of member of the general assembly or for a candidate for the 1896
office of judge of a court of appeals was submitted finds the 1897
statement to be incomplete or inaccurate, the officer shall 1898
immediately notify the secretary of state of its incomplete or 1899
inaccurate nature. If either an officer at the board of 1900
elections or the secretary of state finds a statement filed for 1901
a candidate for the office of member of the general assembly or 1902
for a candidate for the office of judge of a court of appeals to 1903
be incomplete or inaccurate, only the secretary of state shall 1904
send the notification as to the incomplete or inaccurate nature 1905
of the statement. 1906

Within twenty-one days after receipt of the notice, in the 1907
case of a pre-election statement, a postelection statement, a 1908
monthly statement, an annual statement, or a semiannual 1909
statement prescribed by section 3517.10, an annual statement 1910
prescribed by section 3517.101, or a statement prescribed by 1911
division (B) (2) (b) or (C) (2) (b) of section 3517.105 or section 1912
3517.107 of the Revised Code, the recipient shall file an 1913
addendum, amendment, or other correction to the statement 1914
providing the information necessary to complete or correct the 1915
statement. The secretary of state may require that, in lieu of 1916
filing an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1917
statement that is filed by electronic means of transmission to 1918
the office of the secretary of state or a board of elections 1919
pursuant to section 3517.106 of the Revised Code, the recipient 1920
of the notice described in this division file by electronic 1921
means of transmission an amended statement that incorporates the 1922
information necessary to complete or correct the statement. 1923

The secretary of state shall determine by rule when an 1924
addendum, amendment, or other correction to any of the following 1925
or when an amended statement of any of the following shall be 1926

filed:	1927
(i) A two-business-day statement prescribed by section 3517.10 of the Revised Code;	1928 1929
(ii) A disclosure of electioneering communications statement prescribed by division (D) of section 3517.1011 of the Revised Code;	1930 1931 1932
(iii) A deposit and disbursement statement prescribed under division (B) of section 3517.1012 of the Revised Code;	1933 1934
(iv) A gift and disbursement statement prescribed under section 3517.1013 of the Revised Code;	1935 1936
(v) A donation and disbursement statement prescribed under section 3517.1014 of the Revised Code.	1937 1938
An addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement that is filed by electronic means of transmission pursuant to section 3517.106 of the Revised Code shall be filed in the same manner as the statement.	1939 1940 1941 1942
The provisions of sections 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised Code pertaining to the filing of statements of contributions and expenditures, statements of independent expenditures, disclosure of electioneering communications statements, deposit and disbursement statements, gift and disbursement statements, and donation and disbursement statements by electronic means of transmission apply to the filing of addenda, amendments, or other corrections to those statements by electronic means of transmission and the filing of amended statements by electronic means of transmission.	1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953
(b) Within five business days after the secretary of state	1954

receives, by electronic or other means of transmission, an 1955
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or an 1956
amended statement under division (B) (3) (a) of this section, the 1957
secretary of state, pursuant to divisions (E) ~~, (F),~~ and (G) ~~, and~~ 1958
~~(I)~~ of section 3517.106 or division (D) of section 3517.1011 of 1959
the Revised Code, shall make the contribution and expenditure, 1960
contribution and disbursement, deposit and disbursement, gift 1961
and disbursement, or donation and disbursement information in 1962
that addendum, amendment, correction, or amended statement 1963
available online to the public through the internet. 1964

(4) (a) The secretary of state or the board of elections 1965
shall examine all statements for compliance with sections 1966
3517.08 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 1967

(b) The secretary of state may contract with an individual 1968
or entity not associated with the secretary of state and 1969
experienced in interpreting the campaign finance law of this 1970
state to conduct examinations of statements filed by any 1971
statewide candidate, as defined in section 3517.103 of the 1972
Revised Code. 1973

(c) The examination shall be conducted by a person or 1974
entity qualified to conduct it. The results of the examination 1975
shall be available to the public, and, when the examination is 1976
conducted by an individual or entity not associated with the 1977
secretary of state, the results of the examination shall be 1978
reported to the secretary of state. 1979

(C) (1) In the event of a failure to file or a late filing 1980
of a statement required to be filed under sections 3517.081 to 1981
3517.17 of the Revised Code, or if a filed statement or any 1982
addendum, amendment, or other correction to a statement or any 1983
amended statement, if an addendum, amendment, or other 1984

correction or an amended statement is required to be filed, is 1985
incomplete or inaccurate or appears to disclose a failure to 1986
comply with or a violation of law, the official whose duty it is 1987
to examine the statement shall promptly file a complaint with 1988
the Ohio elections commission under section 3517.153 of the 1989
Revised Code if the law is one over which the commission has 1990
jurisdiction to hear complaints, or the official shall promptly 1991
report the failure or violation to the board of elections and 1992
the board shall promptly report it to the prosecuting attorney 1993
in accordance with division (J) of section 3501.11 of the 1994
Revised Code. If the official files a complaint with the 1995
commission, the commission shall proceed in accordance with 1996
sections 3517.154 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code. 1997

(2) For purposes of division (C)(1) of this section, a 1998
statement or an addendum, amendment, or other correction to a 1999
statement or an amended statement required to be filed under 2000
sections 3517.081 to 3517.17 of the Revised Code is incomplete 2001
or inaccurate under this section if the statement, addendum, 2002
amendment, other correction, or amended statement fails to 2003
disclose substantially all contributions, gifts, or donations 2004
that are received or deposits that are made that are required to 2005
be reported under sections 3517.10, 3517.107, 3517.108, 2006
3517.1011, 3517.1012, 3517.1013, and 3517.1014 of the Revised 2007
Code or if the statement, addendum, amendment, other correction, 2008
or amended statement fails to disclose at least ninety per cent 2009
of the total contributions, gifts, or donations received or 2010
deposits made or of the total expenditures or disbursements made 2011
during the reporting period. 2012

(D) No certificate of nomination or election shall be 2013
issued to a person, and no person elected to an office shall 2014
enter upon the performance of the duties of that office, until 2015

that person or that person's campaign committee, as appropriate, 2016
has fully complied with this section and sections 3517.08, 2017
3517.081, 3517.10, and 3517.13 of the Revised Code. 2018

Section 2. That existing sections 3517.10, 3517.105, 2019
3517.106, 3517.1011, and 3517.11 of the Revised Code are hereby 2020
repealed. 2021

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of 2022
January that occurs at least one hundred eighty days after the 2023
act is filed with the Secretary of State. 2024