HOUSE BILL 1782

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Marshall and Barkis

AN ACT Relating to amending the timeline for reporting campaign contributions and expenditures; amending RCW 42.17A.235 and 3 29B.25.090; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration 4 date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17A.235 and 2019 c 428 s 20 are each amended to 7 read as follows:

8 (1)(a) In addition to the information required under RCW 9 42.17A.205 and 42.17A.210, each candidate or political committee must 10 file with the commission a report of all contributions received and 11 expenditures made as a political committee on the next reporting date 12 pursuant to the timeline established in this section.

(b) In addition to the information required under RCW 42.17A.207 13 14 and 42.17A.210, on the day an incidental committee files a statement 15 of organization with the commission, each incidental committee must 16 file with the commission a report of any election campaign 17 expenditures under RCW 42.17A.240(((())) (7), as well as the source 18 of the ten largest cumulative payments of ten thousand dollars or 19 greater it received in the current calendar year from a single 20 person, including any persons tied as the tenth largest source of 21 payments it received, if any.

1 (2) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee, or an 2 incidental committee, required to file a statement of organization 3 under this chapter, shall file with the commission a report, for each 4 election in which a candidate, political committee, or incidental 5 committee is participating, containing the information required by 6 RCW 42.17A.240 at the following intervals:

7 (a) On the ((twenty-first)) <u>20th</u> day and the ((seventh)) <u>sixth</u>
8 day immediately preceding the date on which the election is held; and
9 (b) On the tenth day of the first full month after the election.

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(3) (a) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee shall 10 11 file with the commission a report on the tenth day of each month 12 during which the candidate or political committee is not participating in an election campaign, only if the committee has 13 received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding 14 calendar month and either the total contributions received or total 15 16 expenditures made since the last such report exceed two hundred 17 dollars.

(b) Each incidental committee shall file with the commission a report on the tenth day of each month during which the incidental committee is not otherwise required to report under this section only if the committee has:

(i) Received a payment that would change the information required
 under RCW 42.17A.240(2)(d) as included in its last report; or

(ii) Made any election campaign expenditure reportable under RCW 42.17A.240(((-6))) (7) since its last report, and the total election campaign expenditures made since the last report exceed two hundred dollars.

28 (4) The report filed ((twenty-one)) 20 days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of 29 the end of ((one)) two business days before the date of the report. 30 31 The report filed ((seven)) six days before the election shall report 32 all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of ((one)) two business days before the date of the report. Reports 33 filed on the tenth day of the month shall report all contributions 34 received and expenditures made from the closing date of the last 35 report filed through the last day of the month preceding the date of 36 37 the current report.

38 (5) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month 39 preceding the date of the special election, or for the period 40 beginning the first day of the fifth month before the date of the

1 general election, and ending on the date of that special or general election, each Monday the treasurer for a candidate or a political 2 committee shall file with the commission a report of each bank 3 deposit made during the previous seven calendar days. The report 4 shall contain the name of each person contributing the funds and the 5 6 amount contributed by each person. However, persons who contribute no 7 more than twenty-five dollars in the aggregate are not required to be identified in the report. A copy of the report shall be retained by 8 the treasurer for the treasurer's records. In the event of deposits 9 made by candidates, political committee members, or paid staff other 10 11 than the treasurer, the copy shall be immediately provided to the 12 treasurer for the treasurer's records. Each report shall be certified 13 as correct by the treasurer.

(6) (a) The treasurer for a candidate or a political committee 14 15 maintain books of account accurately reflecting all shall 16 contributions and expenditures on a current basis within five 17 business days of receipt or expenditure. During the ten calendar days immediately preceding the date of the election the books of account 18 19 shall be kept current within one business day. As specified in the political committee's statement of organization filed under RCW 20 42.17A.205, the books of account must be open for public inspection 21 22 by appointment at a place agreed upon by both the treasurer and the requestor, for inspections between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on any day 23 from the tenth calendar day immediately before the election through 24 25 the day immediately before the election, other than Saturday, Sunday, 26 or a legal holiday. It is a violation of this chapter for a candidate or political committee to refuse to allow and keep an appointment for 27 28 an inspection to be conducted during these authorized times and days. 29 The appointment must be allowed at an authorized time and day for such inspections that is within forty-eight hours of the time and day 30 31 that is requested for the inspection. The treasurer may provide 32 digital access or copies of the books of account in lieu of scheduling an appointment at a designated place for inspection. If 33 the treasurer and requestor are unable to agree on a location and the 34 treasurer has not provided digital access to the books of account, 35 36 the default location for an appointment shall be a place of public accommodation selected by the treasurer within a reasonable distance 37 from the treasurer's office. 38

39 (b) At the time of making the appointment, a person wishing to 40 inspect the books of account must provide the treasurer the name and 1 telephone number of the person wishing to inspect the books of 2 account. The person inspecting the books of account must show photo 3 identification before the inspection begins.

4 (c) A treasurer may refuse to show the books of account to any 5 person who does not make an appointment or provide the required 6 identification. The commission may issue limited rules to modify the 7 requirements set forth in this section in consideration of other 8 technology and best practices.

9 (7) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section shall be 10 readily available for public inspection by appointment, pursuant to 11 subsection (6) of this section.

12 (8) The treasurer or candidate shall preserve books of account, 13 bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the campaign or 14 political committee for not less than five calendar years following 15 the year during which the transaction occurred or for any longer 16 period as otherwise required by law.

(9) All reports filed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and the treasurer.

(10) Where there is not a pending complaint concerning a report, it is not evidence of a violation of this section to submit an amended report within twenty-one days of filing an initial report if:

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(a) The report is accurately amended;

24 (b) The amended report is filed more than thirty days before an 25 election;

(c) The total aggregate dollar amount of the adjustment for the amended report is within three times the contribution limit per election or two hundred dollars, whichever is greater; and

(d) The committee reported all information that was available to it at the time of filing, or made a good faith effort to do so, or if a refund of a contribution or expenditure is being reported.

(11) (a) When there is no outstanding debt or obligation, the campaign fund is closed, the campaign is concluded in all respects, and the political committee has ceased to function and intends to dissolve, the treasurer shall file a final report. Upon submitting a final report, the political committee so intending to dissolve must file notice of intent to dissolve with the commission and the commission must post the notice on its website.

39 (b) Any political committee may dissolve sixty days after it 40 files its notice to dissolve, only if: 1 (i) The political committee does not make any expenditures other 2 than those related to the dissolution process or engage in any 3 political activity or any other activities that generate additional 4 reporting requirements under this chapter after filing such notice;

5 (ii) No complaint or court action under this chapter is pending 6 against the political committee; and

7 (iii) All penalties assessed by the commission or court order 8 have been paid by the political committee.

9 (c) The political committee must continue to report regularly as 10 required under this chapter until all the conditions under (b) of 11 this subsection are resolved.

(d) Upon dissolution, the commission must issue an acknowledgment of dissolution, the duties of the treasurer shall cease, and there shall be no further obligations under this chapter. Dissolution does not absolve the candidate or board of the committee from responsibility for any future obligations resulting from the finding after dissolution of a violation committed prior to dissolution.

18 (12) The commission must adopt rules for the dissolution of 19 incidental committees.

20 Sec. 2. RCW 29B.25.090 and 2024 c 164 s 426 are each amended to 21 read as follows:

(1) (a) In addition to the information required under RCW 23 29B.25.020 and 29B.25.040, each candidate or political committee must 24 file with the commission a report of all contributions received and 25 expenditures made as a political committee on the next reporting date 26 pursuant to the timeline established in this section.

27 (b) In addition to the information required under RCW 29B.25.030 28 and 29B.25.040, on the day an incidental committee files a statement of organization with the commission, each incidental committee must 29 30 file with the commission a report of any election campaign 31 expenditures under RCW 29B.25.100(7), as well as the source of the 10 32 largest cumulative payments of ten thousand dollars or greater it received in the current calendar year from a single person, including 33 any persons tied as the 10th largest source of payments it received, 34 35 if any.

36 (2) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee, or an 37 incidental committee, required to file a statement of organization 38 under this title, shall file with the commission a report, for each 39 election in which a candidate, political committee, or incidental

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1 committee is participating, containing the information required by 2 RCW 29B.25.100 at the following intervals:

3 (a) On the ((21st)) <u>20th</u> day and the ((seventh)) <u>sixth</u> day 4 immediately preceding the date on which the election is held; and

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(b) On the 10th day of the first full month after the election.

6 (3) (a) Each treasurer of a candidate or political committee shall file with the commission a report on the 10th day of each month 7 during which the candidate or political committee 8 is not participating in an election campaign, only if the committee has 9 received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding 10 calendar month and either the total contributions received or total 11 12 expenditures made since the last such report exceed two hundred dollars. 13

(b) Each incidental committee shall file with the commission a report on the 10th day of each month during which the incidental committee is not otherwise required to report under this section only if the committee has:

(i) Received a payment that would change the information requiredunder RCW 29B.25.100(2)(d) as included in its last report; or

(ii) Made any election campaign expenditure reportable under RCW
 29B.25.100(7) since its last report, and the total election campaign
 expenditures made since the last report exceed two hundred dollars.

23 (4) The report filed ((21)) <u>20</u> days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end 24 25 of ((one)) two business days before the date of the report. The 26 report filed ((seven)) six days before the election shall report all 27 contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of ((one)) 28 two business days before the date of the report. Reports filed on the 10th day of the month shall report all contributions received and 29 expenditures made from the closing date of the last report filed 30 31 through the last day of the month preceding the date of the current 32 report.

33 (5) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month preceding the date of the special election, or for the period 34 beginning the first day of the fifth month before the date of the 35 general election, and ending on the date of that special or general 36 election, each Monday the treasurer for a candidate or a political 37 committee shall file with the commission a report of each bank 38 39 deposit made during the previous seven calendar days. The report 40 shall contain the name of each person contributing the funds and the

amount contributed by each person. However, persons who contribute no 1 more than twenty-five dollars in the aggregate are not required to be 2 identified in the report. A copy of the report shall be retained by 3 the treasurer for the treasurer's records. In the event of deposits 4 made by candidates, political committee members, or paid staff other 5 6 than the treasurer, the copy shall be immediately provided to the treasurer for the treasurer's records. Each report shall be certified 7 as correct by the treasurer. 8

(6) (a) The treasurer for a candidate or a political committee 9 shall maintain books of account accurately reflecting 10 all 11 contributions and expenditures on a current basis within five 12 business days of receipt or expenditure. During the 10 calendar days immediately preceding the date of the election the books of account 13 shall be kept current within one business day. As specified in the 14 political committee's statement of organization filed under RCW 15 16 29B.25.020, the books of account must be open for public inspection by appointment at a place agreed upon by both the treasurer and the 17 requestor, for inspections between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on any day 18 19 from the 10th calendar day immediately before the election through the day immediately before the election, other than Saturday, Sunday, 20 or a legal holiday. It is a violation of this title for a candidate 21 22 or political committee to refuse to allow and keep an appointment for an inspection to be conducted during these authorized times and days. 23 The appointment must be allowed at an authorized time and day for 24 25 such inspections that is within 48 hours of the time and day that is requested for the inspection. The treasurer may provide digital 26 access or copies of the books of account in lieu of scheduling an 27 appointment at a designated place for inspection. If the treasurer 28 29 and requestor are unable to agree on a location and the treasurer has not provided digital access to the books of account, the default 30 31 location for an appointment shall be a place of public accommodation 32 selected by the treasurer within a reasonable distance from the treasurer's office. 33

34 (b) At the time of making the appointment, a person wishing to 35 inspect the books of account must provide the treasurer the name and 36 telephone number of the person wishing to inspect the books of 37 account. The person inspecting the books of account must show photo 38 identification before the inspection begins.

39 (c) A treasurer may refuse to show the books of account to any 40 person who does not make an appointment or provide the required

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identification. The commission may issue limited rules to modify the requirements set forth in this section in consideration of other technology and best practices.

4 (7) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section shall be 5 readily available for public inspection by appointment, pursuant to 6 subsection (6) of this section.

7 (8) The treasurer or candidate shall preserve books of account, 8 bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the campaign or 9 political committee for not less than five calendar years following 10 the year during which the transaction occurred or for any longer 11 period as otherwise required by law.

12 (9) All reports filed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this 13 section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and the 14 treasurer.

(10) Where there is not a pending complaint concerning a report, it is not evidence of a violation of this section to submit an amended report within 21 days of filing an initial report if:

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(a) The report is accurately amended;

19 (b) The amended report is filed more than 30 days before an 20 election;

(c) The total aggregate dollar amount of the adjustment for the amended report is within three times the contribution limit per election or two hundred dollars, whichever is greater; and

(d) The committee reported all information that was available to it at the time of filing, or made a good faith effort to do so, or if a refund of a contribution or expenditure is being reported.

(11) (a) When there is no outstanding debt or obligation, the campaign fund is closed, the campaign is concluded in all respects, and the political committee has ceased to function and intends to dissolve, the treasurer shall file a final report. Upon submitting a final report, the political committee so intending to dissolve must file notice of intent to dissolve with the commission and the commission must post the notice on its website.

34 (b) Any political committee may dissolve 60 days after it files 35 its notice to dissolve, only if:

(i) The political committee does not make any expenditures other
 than those related to the dissolution process or engage in any
 political activity or any other activities that generate additional
 reporting requirements under this title after filing such notice;

1 (ii) No complaint or court action under this title is pending 2 against the political committee; and

3 (iii) All penalties assessed by the commission or court order4 have been paid by the political committee.

5 (c) The political committee must continue to report regularly as 6 required under this title until all the conditions under (b) of this 7 subsection are resolved.

8 (d) Upon dissolution, the commission must issue an acknowledgment 9 of dissolution, the duties of the treasurer shall cease, and there 10 shall be no further obligations under this title. Dissolution does 11 not absolve the candidate or board of the committee from 12 responsibility for any future obligations resulting from the finding 13 after dissolution of a violation committed prior to dissolution.

14 (12) The commission must adopt rules for the dissolution of 15 incidental committees.

16 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act expires January 1, 17 2026.

18 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. Section 2 of this act takes effect January 19 1, 2026.

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