

Streamline campaign disclosure

HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA

Standardize campaign disclosure procedures to match state law

Hennepin County has unique—and in some cases outdated—campaign finance disclosure laws. Minn. Stat. § 383B.041-052 governs elections for Hennepin County offices, cities in Hennepin County with a population of more than 75,000, and the Minneapolis School District.

This legislation repeals outdated and confusing statutes as well as standardizes campaign finance reporting requirements for local campaign committees. Doing so will make it easier for candidates and residents to file and view this data.

Increase transparency and remove confusion

This table outlines the proposed campaign finance reporting changes.

Issue	Current	Proposed
Where candidates for Hennepin County offices file campaign finance disclosures	Hennepin County	Hennepin County
Where candidates for offices in large jurisdictions in Hennepin County file campaign finance disclosures	Hennepin County	Specific city
Where political committees, political funds and independent expenditures file campaign finance disclosures for Hennepin County and larger jurisdictions in Hennepin County	HC or MN Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board	Only MN Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
Where political committees, political funds and independent expenditures file campaign finance disclosures for smaller jurisdictions in Hennepin County.	City	City

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Simplify campaign finance disclosure locations for candidates

- Under the proposed legislation, candidates for offices in Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis School District will file campaign finance disclosures with the local government entity for which they are running. Today, they file with Hennepin County.
- These candidates will follow the provisions of Chapter 211A, which is the law for all cities with a population of less than 75,000 in Hennepin County and all other cities in the state.
- Candidates for Hennepin County offices will still file with Hennepin County and will be subject to Chapter 211A.

Fix gap in reporting requirements for political committees, political funds, and those making independent expenditures

- Under the proposed legislation, political committees, political funds, and those making independent expenditures related to races or ballot questions in Hennepin County, Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis School District will change campaign finance disclosure filing location and timing.
- These entities will all file with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, known as the CFB. They will be required to disclose activity in any non-general election races in Hennepin County before the non-general elections.
 - Currently, these entities (if active in the relevant races) file with Hennepin County, unless they are also registered with the CFB. Under those circumstances, they only file with the CFB.
 - Currently, entities that are active in non-general election year races in Hennepin County AND registered with the CFB are not required to file any campaign finance reports until after the election is over. This bill fixes the gap in disclosure and makes reporting more timely.

Update historic and outdated law

The state legislature enacted current laws in the 1980s and mirrored laws that are now codified in Chapter 10A. Today, the campaign disclosure provisions cause confusion for residents, candidates, and others about where and when campaign disclosures must occur. They do not provide the same level of transparency as Chapter 10A.

The changes allow the relevant provisions of Chapter 383B to be repealed. The provisions of either Chapter 10A or Chapter 211A will ensure that candidates and others involved in elections make appropriate campaign finance disclosures.

The proposed legislation continues to treat these jurisdictions different from others in Hennepin County and the state, but increases transparency and removes confusion.

Making these changes will make it easier for candidates and political committees and funds to file campaign finance information and will increase transparency for citizens seeking this data.