

Subject Hennepin County Campaign Finance Reporting

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Overview

This bill transfers oversight of campaign finance reporting requirements for political committees, political funds, and party units engaged in campaign activity for certain elected offices and ballot questions in Hennepin County. Offices covered include county offices, offices within cities located wholly within Hennepin County with a population of 75,000 or more, and offices of the Minneapolis school district.

Under current law, the Hennepin County elections administrator receives the campaign finance reports for these offices. This bill instead requires some reports to be filed with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, and some to be filed with the filing officer of the applicable political subdivision, depending on the entity responsible for the filing.

Most of the sections in this bill contain conforming references and technical updates to existing laws to reflect the transfer of these responsibilities.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Approved expenditure.
Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “approved expenditure,” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County. |
| 2 | Ballot question.
Adds references to reflect the addition of certain ballot questions in Hennepin County to the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. |

Section	Description
3	Campaign expenditure. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “campaign expenditure” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
4	Local candidate. Adds a definition of “local candidate” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
5	Contribution. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “contribution” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
6	Expressly advocating. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “expressly advocating” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain campaigns for offices within Hennepin County.
7	General treasury money. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “general treasury money” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain campaigns for offices within Hennepin County.
8	Independent expenditure. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “independent expenditure” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
9	Loan. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “loan” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
10	Political committee. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “political committee” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.

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11	Political fund. Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “political fund” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain campaigns for offices within Hennepin County.
12	When required for contributions and approved expenditures. Adds references to local candidates into the law governing political fund organizational requirements, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
13	Commingling prohibited. Adds references to local candidates into the law governing political fund organizational requirements, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
14	Penalty. Adds references to local candidates into the law that provides penalties for independent expenditure political committees and funds in the event they violate the law, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
15	Accounts; penalty. Adds references to local candidates into the law governing the accounts that must be kept by political committees, political funds, principal campaign committees, and party units, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
16	Independent expenditures. Adds references to local candidates into the law governing disclosure of independent expenditures, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
17	Local election reports. Establishes a reporting schedule for campaign expenditures related to local candidates and local ballot questions (“local” is defined earlier in the bill to include only certain entities in Hennepin County).
18	Contents of report. Adds references to local candidates into the law governing the content of required campaign finance reports, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and

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	Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
19	Statement of independence. Adds references to local candidates into the law governing the certification that an independent expenditure was made independently, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include campaigns for certain offices within Hennepin County.
20	Campaign financing; disclosure of economic interests. Amends existing statutes specific to Hennepin County which currently regulate campaign finance reporting by local candidates and entities within the county. The changes conform to the changes made earlier in this bill, and clarify which types of candidates are subject to oversight by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, and which types of candidates must continue to file campaign reports and economic interest statements with a local filing officer.
21	Repealer. Repeals a series of statutes specific to campaign oversight and reporting for local candidates within Hennepin County. The reporting obligations repealed in these sections are instead replaced by the system of reporting established in this bill.



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