

# FILING OBLIGATIONS AFTER THE ELECTION AND TERMINATING THE COMMITTEE

After the election, a candidate's future filing obligations are determined by whether they were elected to office or not. Generally, a committee primarily formed to support or oppose a candidate will terminate after the election. The Political Reform Act (Act) does not require any local candidate or primarily formed committee to terminate; however, campaign statements must continue to be filed as long as the committee remains open. In addition, the \$50 annual fee must be paid to the Secretary of State.

This chapter addresses the reporting requirements for successful candidates, defeated candidates, primarily formed committees, and the guidelines for terminating a campaign committee.

## A. Successful Candidates

The requirements discussed below apply to candidates/officeholders immediately following the election and for subsequent non-election years. An officeholder retains their status as a "candidate" under the Act and must continue to file campaign reports – either the full Form 460 or the short Form 470 – until they have left elective office and terminated their committee. See "Candidates Using Campaign Funds for a Future Election" below to determine the requirements for a candidate/officeholder running for reelection or running for election to a different office.

### Officeholders Who Filed Form 470 During Campaign

After the election, a candidate who filed the Form 470 (Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form) in connection with the election has no additional filing obligations that calendar year provided \$2,000 or more is not raised or spent during that calendar year. So long as a candidate/officeholder does not have an open committee, a Form 470 must be filed by July 31 of each subsequent non-election year.

## Officeholders Who Filed Form 460 During Campaign

After the election, a successful candidate who filed the Form 460 (Recipient Committee Campaign Statement) in connection with the election must continue to file the Form 460 semi-annually as long as the committee remains open. In addition, other special reports may be required. The candidate/officeholder has the option of maintaining their committee and campaign bank account or terminating the campaign committee and closing the bank account. An officeholder who maintains a committee may:

- Continue to receive contributions;
- Use campaign funds to offset officeholder expenses; or
- Use funds for a future election. (See “Candidates Using Campaign Funds for a Future Election” below.)

Once an officeholder terminates the committee, they may be required to file the Form 470 the following year. However, if a candidate/officeholder has an open committee at any time during a calendar year, the Form 470 (short form) may not be filed instead of the Form 460.

### Exception: Judges and Unpaid Officeholders

Unpaid officeholders (defined in the Act as those who receive less than \$200 per month for serving in office) and judges are not required to file Form 460 or Form 470 for any semi-annual period in which they are not listed on a ballot and do not receive any contributions or make any expenditures. This exception applies even if a judge or unpaid officeholder has a controlled committee so long as the committee has not received any contributions or made any expenditures (excluding bank fees and interest).

To determine whether \$200 has been received, only the elected officeholder’s fixed compensation (i.e., salary) is counted. Payments for health benefits, reimbursement for expenses (including travel expenses), or per diem received from the officeholder’s agency need not be counted toward the \$200.

Judges and unpaid officeholders who are listed on a ballot must file the Form 470.

### **Behested Payment Reports (Form 803)**

An elected officer who fundraises for worthy causes (such as for a local school, to build a new community center or restore a historic building) may have to file a “behested payments” report. Behested payments are payments made to a “payee,” such as a charity or a government agency, by a third party “payor” at the request or suggestion of an elected officer for a legislative, governmental or charitable purpose. These behested payments do not include payments made principally for personal purposes (i.e., gifts) or campaign purposes (i.e., contributions).

A common example is when an elected officer co-sponsors a charitable, governmental, or legislative event, such as a job fair or a conference on public policy issues, with outside sources. Payments made by outside sources in connection with these events generally are considered behested payments.

#### **Form 803 Filing Procedures:**

- File the Form 803 when a person donates \$5,000 or more in a calendar year to charitable organizations or events at the request of an elected officer.
- Once a source has made a behested payment(s) of \$5,000 or more during the calendar year, subsequent payments of any amount from that source during the calendar year must be reported.
- An elected officer must disclose a relationship to a nonprofit organization recipient of a behested payment and any proceeding before their agency at the time of payment or within 12 months prior to the reported payment in which the payor is involved in the proceeding. See Regulation 18424 for additional information.
- File the Form 803 with the elected officer’s agency within 30 days following the date of the payment.

- The elected officer’s agency must forward the Form 803 to the filing officer who receives the elected officer’s campaign statements within 30 days of receiving the form. The Form 803 is a public record. See the Form 803 example below.

**QUICK TIP:** Although behested payments are not considered gifts or contributions to the elected official, meals, lodging, and travel payments received by an official in connection with a co-sponsored event may be reportable gifts.

**Ex 12.1** - At the mayor’s request, a catering company donated refreshments valued at \$5,000 for a city sponsored job fair. The mayor must file a Form 803 with the city clerk to report the behested payment.

### **Form 803 Exceptions:**

- A Form 803 is not required of a non-elected officer.
- A payment is not subject to behested payment reporting if the elected officer makes a request for a payment from a local, state, or federal government agency.

### **Form 803 Reporting: Charitable Fundraising Solicitations Involving an Elected Officer**

A payment is subject to behested payment reporting if the payment is made in response to a fundraising solicitation from a charitable organization where the solicitation meets the following:

- It was sent with the cooperation, control, or consent or at the suggestion or direction of the elected officer; and
- It “features” the elected officer.

A solicitation “features” an elected officer when it includes the officer’s photograph or signature, or singles out the elected officer **in the manner of display**. An elected officer is also featured in a solicitation if the roster or letterhead listing the governing body contains a majority of elected officers. See Regulation 18424.2 for additional information.

**Behested Payment Report**  
A Public Document

Type or Print in Ink.

<b>Amendment of Filing</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check box if an Amendment ____/____/____ (Month, Day, Year) # _____ Confirmation Number	Date Stamp (Agency)	<b>CALIFORNIA FORM 803</b>
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**1. Elected Officer or CPUC Member** (Last name, First name)

ELECTED OFFICER OR CPUC MEMBER: <b>Alvarez, Manuel</b>	AGENCY NAME: <b>City of Oakmont</b>	AGENCY STREET ADDRESS: <b>225 Presley Street, Oakmont, CA 95443</b>
DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSON (NAME AND TITLE): <b>Madeline Richards</b>	AREA CODE/PHONE NUMBER: <b>707-555-6868</b>	E-MAIL: <b>mrichards@oakmontmail.com</b>

**2. Payor Information** (For additional payors, include an attachment with the names, addresses, and proceeding information)

NAME: <b>Wildwood Insurance Company</b>	ADDRESS: <b>1022 Main Street</b>	CITY: <b>Oakmont</b>	STATE: <b>CA</b>	ZIP CODE: <b>95443</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor Advised Fund (DAF) (see instructions)	DAF NAME:	DONOR(S) AND DONOR'S ADVISOR: (SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Payor is a named party or the subject of a proceeding before my agency.		BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROCEEDINGS:		

**3. Payee Information** (For additional payees, include an attachment with the names, addresses and relationship information)

NAME: <b>Boys and Girls Club of America</b>	ADDRESS: <b>555 10th Street</b>	CITY: <b>Sacramento</b>	STATE: <b>CA</b>	ZIP CODE: <b>95814</b>
For a nonprofit organization payee, provide a brief description of any relationship to the official, official's immediate family member or staff member in the role of founder, salaried employee, decision-making capacity (board member or executive officer) or position on an honorary or advisory board.				
NAME AND TITLE:	ROLE WITH THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION:	BRIEF DESCRIPTION:		

**4. Payment Information** (Complete all information. For estimated payment information check the box below.)

DATE (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)	AMOUNT	PAYMENT TYPE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF IN-KIND PAYMENT	PURPOSE	DESCRIBE THE LEGISLATIVE, GOVERNMENTAL, CHARITABLE PURPOSE, OR EVENT:
<b>6/24/xx</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONETARY DONATION <input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND GOODS OR SERVICES		<input type="checkbox"/> LEGISLATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENTAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHARITABLE	<b>Charitable fundraiser to support the Boys and Girls Club.</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> MONETARY DONATION <input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND GOODS OR SERVICES		<input type="checkbox"/> LEGISLATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENTAL <input type="checkbox"/> CHARITABLE	

The \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE/AMOUNT) is an estimate and reflects my best efforts at obtaining the accurate information. REASON FOR ESTIMATE:

**5. Amendment Description and/or Comments** (Provide date of original filing or confirmation number in Part 1.)

**6. Verification**

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is true and complete.

Executed on 6/30/20xx DATE By Manuel Alvarez SIGNATURE

FPPC Form 803 (February/2022)  
advice@fppc.ca.gov

## Legal Defense Committees

The Act permits a local candidate or elected officer to establish a legal defense fund, if the candidate or officer is subject to civil, criminal or administrative proceedings arising directly out of the conduct of an election campaign, the electoral process, or the performance of the officer's governmental duties. Contributions raised for legal defense must be held in a separate account, they may be subject to contribution limits if provided by local ordinance, and they must be fully reported. Any funds raised may only be spent to defray attorneys fees and other related legal costs, as defined in the Act. (See Regulation 18530.45 for additional information.)

A candidate or officeholder may not use any funds to pay or be reimbursed for a penalty, judgement or settlement related to a claim of sexual assault, sexual abuse or sexual harassment filed against the candidate or officeholder in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding.

A candidate or officeholder may use legal defense committee funds for *other* legal costs and expenses related to claims of sexual assault, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, but if the candidate or officeholder is held liable, the candidate or elected officer must reimburse the legal defense fund for all funds used in connection with those other legal costs and expenses.

“Sexual assault” and “sexual abuse” have the same meaning as provided in Penal Code Section 11165.1. “Sexual Harassment” has the same meaning as found in Government Code Section 12940(j).

## Recall Elections

Under state law, an officeholder who is the subject of a recall may use an existing committee (set up for the office they currently hold) to receive contributions and make expenditures to oppose the qualification of the recall measure, and if the recall petition qualifies, the recall election.

An alternative option is to form a separate recall committee. A recall committee may be established once the officeholder receives a notice of intent to recall under Elections Code Section 11201. The committee must set up a separate bank account at a financial institution in California, file a Statement of Organization (Form 410), and, in addition to the officeholder's name, must include the word "recall" in the name of the committee. See Campaign Disclosure Manual 3 as a recall committee is considered a ballot measure committee. (FPPC Regulation 18531.5 contains specific guidance on recall elections.)

## **B. Defeated Candidates**

### **Form 470 Filers**

Following the election, a defeated candidate who filed the Form 470 (Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form) has no further reporting obligations so long as less than \$2,000 was raised or spent during the calendar year.

### **Form 460 Filers**

Following the election, a defeated candidate must continue to file the Form 460 on a semi-annual basis and pay the annual committee fee as long as the committee remains open. In addition, other special reports may be required.

There is no deadline for terminating the committee or disposing of leftover funds; however, if there are leftover funds and the candidate wants to use the funds for a future election, the funds must be redesignated or transferred as discussed below. (Note: Candidates for a city or county office in a jurisdiction that has enacted a local contribution limit should check with the local jurisdiction to determine if there is a local ordinance that imposes additional provisions regarding terminating the committee.)

A defeated candidate in a city or county that has not enacted contribution limits, with no net debts outstanding must terminate their candidate controlled committee no later than 24 months after the candidate is defeated.

## C. Candidates Using Leftover Campaign Funds for a Future Election

A local candidate or officeholder may use leftover campaign funds for a future election so long as the funds are not considered “surplus funds” and the requirements below are met. **Campaign funds become surplus on the 90th day after the closing date for the postelection reporting period or upon the 90th day after the date of leaving office, whichever occurs last.** Surplus campaign funds are subject to restrictions, as described in Chapter 5, and may not be used for a future election.

**Ex 12.2** - John Davis lost the city council election in November. John has \$3,500 remaining in the campaign bank account and is considering seeking another city council position in two years. In order to use the remaining \$3,500 for the future election, John must file a new Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) and redesignate the bank account to a future election by amending the Form 410 (Statement of Organization) to indicate the new office sought and year of election. This must be done within 90 days after the end of the postelection reporting period for the November election.

**QUICK TIP:** Candidates should also check with the city or county to determine if there are local restrictions for redesignating or transferring campaign funds.

### Running for the Same Office

To use money remaining in the campaign bank account for a future election to the **same office** before the funds become surplus, a local candidate **not subject to AB 571** may redesignate their committee and campaign bank account by:

- Filing a **new Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement)** for the specific future election; and,
- Filing an **amended Form 410 (Statement of Organization)** to reflect the redesignation for the future election.



**QUICK TIP:** Candidates should check with the local jurisdiction to determine if there is a local ordinance with separate redesignation requirements.

## Running for a Different Office

To use money remaining in the campaign bank account for a future election to a different office before the funds become surplus, a local candidate must:

- File a **new Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement)** for the specific future election;
- File a **new Form 410 (Statement of Organization)**; and,
- Open a **new bank account**. So long as the funds are not surplus and there are no local restrictions, the campaign funds from the other account may be transferred to the new bank account.

**Ex 12.3** - Jayna Chacon is a city council member who plans to run for county supervisor in the next election. Jayna would like to use the remaining funds in the city council committee bank account for the county election. Jayna must file a new Form 501 before soliciting or receiving contributions for the county supervisor election. Jayna must also file a new Form 410 and open a new bank account. The city council committee campaign funds must be transferred to the county supervisor campaign bank account within 90 days after the date Jayna leaves the city council position.

## D. Primarily Formed Committees

Generally, a committee established primarily to support or oppose a particular candidate(s) will terminate after the election, but the committee may remain open to:

- Raise funds to pay debts.
- Support or oppose other candidates or measures. The committee will need to amend its Statement of Organization (Form 410) to reflect the change.

A primarily formed committee must continue to file semi-annual campaign statements (i.e., Form 460 or Form 450) and pay the annual committee fee as long as the committee remains open.

**Ex 12.4** - After the election, the committee primarily formed to support candidate Jones decides to support candidate Lopez in the next election. In order to do so, the committee must file an amended Form 410 (Statement of Organization) and will continue to file campaign statements.

## E. Terminating the Committee

There is no deadline for terminating a committee controlled by a local candidate or officeholder in a city or county that has enacted contribution limits unless the controlling candidate/officeholder becomes a state officeholder. In that case, the candidate should refer to Campaign Disclosure Manual 1 for State Candidates for the termination requirements. (Note: Candidates for a city or county office in a jurisdiction that has enacted a local contribution limit should check with the local jurisdiction to determine if there is a local ordinance that imposes additional provisions regarding terminating the committee.)

However, a candidate in a city or county that has not enacted contribution limits must terminate their candidate controlled committee no later than 24 months after the earliest:

- The date the candidate is defeated;
- Leaves office;
- The term of office for which the committee was formed ends; or
- For withdrawn candidates, no later than 24 months after the election from which the candidate withdrew.

**Ex 12.5** - Blake Thomas is currently a city councilmember (elected in 2019) in a jurisdiction subject to AB 571. Blake runs and is reelected to that seat on November 7, 2023. Blake must terminate the candidate controlled city council committee from 2019 by no later than the term of office for which the committee was formed ends in 2023.

A primarily formed committee also does not have a deadline to terminate. However, the committee, by its nature, may need to change its committee status if it remains open after the election. A committee that remains open must continue to file semi-annual campaign statements (i.e., Form 460 or Form 450) and pay the annual fee, as described in Chapter 1, until it terminates. There are specific requirements that must be met in order for a committee to terminate.

**A committee may terminate only if the committee:**

- Has ceased receiving contributions or making expenditures and does not anticipate receiving contributions or making expenditures in the future;
- Has no remaining campaign funds;
- Has filed all required campaign statements, disclosing all reportable transactions, including the disposition of leftover funds; and
- Has eliminated all debts, or has no intention or ability to discharge debts.

A committee must file a Form 410 and a final Form 460 or Form 450. On the Form 410, the “Termination” box must be checked. List the committee’s identification number and the date of termination; the date of termination generally is the date all funds have been expended. Complete Section 1 and the treasurer or assistant treasurer must sign the verification. For candidate controlled committees, the controlling officeholder(s)/candidate(s) also must sign the verification.

**Ex 12.6** - At the end of November, after winning the election, Arlene decides to terminate the committee. To do so, Arlene must file a Form 410 termination and a Form 460 termination showing that the committee has no remaining cash. On the Form 460 Cover Page, Type of Statement section, Arlene will mark both the termination and semi-annual boxes and enter December 31 as the closing date of the statement. Unless there is additional activity, Arlene is not required to file a semi-annual statement on January 31, and may file Form 470 by July 31 of the next year.

Form 450 or 460 also must be filed showing that all funds have been expended and the committee has no cash on hand. Check the “Termination” box on the cover page.

File the original Form 410 with the Secretary of State and a copy with the committee’s local filing officer who receives the committee’s original campaign statements. File the Form 450 or 460 in the committee’s regular filing locations.

## F. Receiving a Refund After the Committee Has Terminated

Generally, once a committee has terminated, no transactions may be made by the committee. However, a candidate controlled committee that has terminated may accept a refund from a governmental entity (such as an overpayment of filing fees) without reopening. A committee may also accept a refund from a vendor or other person without reopening if the committee did not know of its entitlement to the refund prior to termination and the refund or refunds total no more than \$10,000.

To report this type of refund, the terminated committee must file a Form 460 for the period in which the refund was received and report the refund as a miscellaneous increase to cash on Schedule I of the Form 460 and as an expenditure on Schedule E when the funds are spent. See Chapter 5 for the permissible uses of campaign funds. For the rules related to transferring the refund to another committee, see Regulation 18404.1.

**Ex 12.7** - A candidate was defeated in a November election and closed their campaign committee in December. In February of the following year, they received a \$1,500 refund from the county elections office for an overpayment of their filing fees. The candidate must disclose receipt of the refund on Schedule I of the Form 460. The refund must be used for a permissible expenditure as described in Chapter 5, such as to pay outstanding debts or to make a donation to a charity, and disclosed on Schedule E. If the candidate used personal funds to pay the filing fee, they may keep the refund without disclosing it on the Form 460.

## Answering Your Questions

### **A. Must I file the Form 470 even if I waive my \$200 per month salary as a school board member?**

Yes. The exception for unpaid officeholders (less than \$200 per month) does not apply when an officeholder waives their salary.

### **B. May I terminate my committee even if I have outstanding debt?**

Yes. When you file your termination statement showing outstanding debt, you are declaring that you do not have the ability to discharge debts, loans, or other obligations. However, if you plan to raise additional funds, or pay the outstanding debt with personal funds, you may not terminate.

### **C. After terminating my committee, I received a refund from the city clerk for an overpayment of my filing fees. How do I report this?**

If you used campaign funds to pay for the filing fees, you must file a Form 460 to report the refund as a miscellaneous increase to cash (on Schedule I). You must also report the expenditure of the funds on Schedule E. See Chapter 5 for the permissible uses of campaign funds.

If you used personal funds to pay for the filing fees, you may keep the refund and you are not required to report it on a campaign statement.

**D. A nonprofit group paid for a survey they conducted and published. The group is claiming that my committee owes them for part of the costs of the survey, but my position is that, since they conducted the survey without my authorization, my committee does not owe them for the survey. The group has indicated that it may seek a small claims court judgment. I would like to close my committee, but should the committee remain open until the issue is resolved?**

One of the requirements that must be met in order for a committee to terminate is for the treasurer to state, under penalty of perjury, that the committee has eliminated all debts or has declared that it has no intention or ability to discharge all of its debts, loans received, and other obligations.

If your treasurer does not want to declare that the committee has no intention or ability to discharge all of its debts, loans received, and other obligations, we recommend that the committee remain open until the issue is resolved.

**E. Assemblymember Higuera's photo, name and office appears in a Paws & Claws charitable fundraising event invitation, but neither the official nor their staff consented to the use of their photo or otherwise cooperated in the event invitation. Must Assemblymember Higuera file a Form 803 for resulting payments?**

No. Where the solicitation is sent without the official or the official's agent cooperation or consent, or any other actions (coordination, direction, suggestion, etc.) that satisfy "making a behest," there is no duty for the official to report the payments on Form 803 related to their appearance in the event invitation.

## Authority

The following Government Code sections and Title 2 regulations provide authority for the information in this chapter:

### Government Code Sections

82004.5	Behested Payment.
82041.3	Made at the Behest of.
82015	Contribution.
84103	Statement of Organization; Amendment.
84200	Semi-Annual Statements.
84206	Candidates Who Receive or Spend Less than \$2,000.
84214	Termination.
84224	Behested Payment Disclosure.
85200	Statement of Intention to be a Candidate.
85201	Campaign Bank Account.
85304.5	Legal Defense Fund; Local Candidates and Elected Officeholders.
89519	Use of Surplus Campaign Funds.

### Title 2 Regulations

18215	Contribution.
18402	Committee Names.
18404	Termination of Candidate's and Committees' Filing Requirements.
18404.1	Termination and Reopening of Committees.
18406	Short Form for Candidates or Officeholders Who Receive and Spend Less than \$2,000 in a Calendar Year.
18424	Behested Payment Reporting. Additional Information.
18424.1	Behested Payment Reporting. Good Faith Estimate.
18424.2	Behested Payment Reporting. Charitable Organization Fundraising Solicitations.
18424.3	Behested Payment Reporting. Payments from Donor Advised Funds.
18426	Semi-Annual Statement Early Filing.
18530.45	Legal Defense Funds – Local Candidates and Officers.
18531.5	Recall Elections.
18951	Surplus Funds.