

OCPF Public Data Dictionary

Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) Commonwealth of Massachusetts

About This Document

This data dictionary provides definitions and descriptions of key terms, concepts, and data fields found in OCPF's public data. It is intended to help members of the public, journalists, researchers, and civic technology developers understand OCPF data and the campaign finance information it contains.

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Glossary of Key Terms

General

Term	Definition
OCPF	The Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the Massachusetts state agency responsible for administering and enforcing the campaign finance laws of the Commonwealth.
CPF ID	A unique numeric identifier assigned by OCPF to each registered filer (committee, candidate, PAC, etc.). CPF IDs are assigned sequentially within ranges based on committee type.
Filer	Any individual or organization registered with OCPF to raise or spend money in connection with Massachusetts elections. Filers include candidates, political committees, PACs, ballot question committees, and others.
Committee	An organized group registered with OCPF to receive contributions and make expenditures for political purposes. Most candidates have a committee; some filers are "candidate only" without a formal committee.
Depository System	A reporting framework in which a candidate's campaign bank reports financial activity directly to OCPF on the candidate's behalf. Depository filers receive bank-reported transactions and may file supplemental reports.

Term	Definition
Depository Filer	A candidate or committee that participates in the depository system. Their bank reports transactions to OCPF directly.
Non-Depository Filer	A filer that reports financial activity to OCPF directly, rather than through a depository bank. This category historically included PACs, mayors, and legislators before they joined the depository system.

People and Roles

Term	Definition
Candidate	An individual seeking elected office whose campaign finance activity is reported to OCPF.
Treasurer	The individual responsible for managing a committee's finances and ensuring compliance with campaign finance reporting requirements.
Chair	The chairperson of a political committee.
Auditor	An OCPF staff member assigned to review and monitor a filer's compliance with campaign finance laws.

Committee and Account Types

Term	Definition
Depository Candidate (D)	A candidate participating in the depository banking system.
Political Action Committee / PAC (P)	A committee organized to raise and spend money to support or oppose candidates for office.
Independent Expenditure PAC / IEPAC (I)	A PAC that makes expenditures to support or oppose candidates independently, without coordinating with the candidate's campaign.
Ballot Question Committee (X)	A committee organized to support or oppose a ballot question (referendum).
State Party Committee (E)	A political party committee organized at the state level.
Local Party Committee (L)	A political party committee organized at the local or municipal level.

Term	Definition
Segregated Account (V)	A separate account maintained by a candidate for specific fundraising or spending purposes, apart from their primary campaign account.
People's Committee (Y)	A type of political action committee.
Bank (B)	A depository bank that reports financial transactions to OCPF on behalf of depository filers.
Local Filer (N, O)	A committee that files with their local election authority rather than OCPF. Some local filers appear in OCPF's database because they use OCPF's e-filing software or previously reported to OCPF before transferring to a municipal race.

Financial Terms

Term	Definition
Contribution	Money, goods, or services received by a committee to support its political activities. Contributions may come from individuals, organizations, or other committees.
In-Kind Contribution	A non-monetary contribution of goods or services (e.g., donated office space, printing services) that has a monetary value.
Expenditure	Money spent by a committee for political purposes, such as advertising, staff, events, or other campaign activities.
Independent Expenditure	An expenditure made to support or oppose a candidate that is not coordinated with the candidate's campaign.
Receipt	A monetary contribution or other incoming funds received by a committee.
Liability	An outstanding financial obligation owed by a committee.
Tender Type	The method by which a contribution is made: check, cash, credit card, money order, transfer, or other.
Itemized	A transaction that meets the reporting threshold and must be reported with full details (name, address, amount, etc.).
Unitemized	A transaction below the reporting threshold, reported only as an aggregate total without individual details.
Sub-vendor	A vendor that receives payment from another vendor on behalf of a committee. For example, a media buying firm (the primary vendor) may pay individual TV stations (sub-vendors).
Reimbursement	A payment made by a committee to repay an individual (often the candidate) for out-of-pocket campaign expenses.
Out-of-Pocket Expenditure	An expenditure paid directly by the candidate personally, rather than from committee funds.

Term	Definition
Dissolution	The formal closing of a committee, after which it is marked as inactive. A year-end report can also serve as a dissolution report.
Refunded Contribution	A contribution that has been returned to the original contributor, often associated with credit card transactions processed through outside vendors.

Reports and Filing

Term	Definition
E-Filing	The electronic submission of campaign finance reports to OCPF.
Report	A financial disclosure filed by a committee with OCPF detailing contributions received, expenditures made, and the committee's financial position for a specific reporting period.
Amendment	A revised version of a previously filed report, submitted to correct errors or provide additional information. Amendments replace the original report.
Current Report	The most recent, non-amended version of a report. When a report is amended, the original is marked as "Amended" (status "A") and the new version becomes "Current" (status "C").
Reporting Period	The date range covered by a financial report.
Year-End Report	An annual financial report covering the full calendar year.
Deposit Report	A report filed by depository filers to itemize deposits made into their campaign bank account. Depository filers may file deposit reports in lieu of late contribution reports if timely.
Bank Report	A report filed by a depository bank on behalf of a depository filer, detailing the financial transactions that occurred in the filer's account during a specific period.
Late Contribution Report	A report filed to disclose contributions received close to an election, subject to special timing requirements.
Credit Card Report	A supplemental report detailing charges, interest, and payments on a committee's credit card account.
Reimbursement Report	A supplemental report itemizing expenses for which a committee is reimbursing an individual.
Sub-vendor Report	A supplemental report detailing payments made by a primary vendor to sub-vendors on behalf of a committee.
IEPAC Report	A report filed by an Independent Expenditure PAC disclosing independent expenditures made to support or oppose candidates.

Term	Definition
Filing Mechanism	The software used by a filer to submit their report electronically.

Elections and Districts

Term	Definition
Ballot Question	A question or referendum appearing on a state election ballot for voters to decide. Ballot question committees are organized to support or oppose these measures.
District Code	A numeric code assigned by OCPF to identify the electoral district associated with a candidate or office. District codes are grouped by office type (see Reference Data).
Office Sought	The elected office a candidate is running for.
Office Held	The elected office a candidate currently holds.
Party Affiliation	A candidate's political party: Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow, Libertarian, or Other. Relevant for non-local candidates and local party committees.
Special Election	An election held outside the regular election cycle, often to fill a vacancy.

Data Processing

Term	Definition
City Code	When contributions and expenditures are e-filed, OCPF determines the municipality associated with the reported city. If a filer reports a village or neighborhood (e.g., "Roslindale"), OCPF links it to the parent city (e.g., "Boston").
Normalized Name	Shortly after reports are filed, OCPF normalizes common nicknames. For example, "Mike" is normalized to "Michael." This does not change the original public record. Searching for either version returns all matches.
Clarified Name / Purpose	For bank-reported expenditures, committees may submit clarifications of the vendor name or payment purpose after the bank reports the original transaction.

Data Source Overview

OCPF's public data is organized into the following categories:

Category	Description
Filers	Information about registered candidates, committees, PACs, and other entities that file with OCPF.

Category	Description
Reports	Financial disclosure reports filed by committees, including summary totals and metadata.
Transactions	Individual financial transactions (contributions, expenditures, in-kind contributions) reported on filings.
Ballot Questions	Information about ballot questions and the committees associated with them.
Reference Data	Lookup tables that provide descriptions for codes used throughout the data (account types, office types, district codes, report types, etc.).

Filers

vFILERS

The primary data source for all registered filers. Each record represents a candidate, committee, PAC, ballot question committee, or other entity registered with OCPF.

CPF ID numbers are assigned sequentially by committee type:

Committee Type	CPF ID Range
Candidates and State Parties	10,000 -- 30,000
Segregated Funds	50,000 -- 59,999
Depository Banks	60,000 -- 69,999
Local Party Committees	70,000 -- 79,999
PACs and IEPACs	80,000 -- 89,999
Ballot Question Committees	90,000 -- 99,999

Key Fields:

Field	Description
CPF_ID	Unique OCPF identifier for the filer
Is_Active	Whether the filer is currently active
Account_Type_Code	Type of account (see Account Types reference)
Account_Type_Description	Description of the account type
Comm_Name	Name of the committee
Candidate_First_Name, Candidate_Last_Name	Candidate's name
Treasurer_First_Name, Treasurer_Last_Name	Treasurer's name
Party_Affiliation	Political party (Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow, Libertarian, Other)

Field	Description
District_Code_Sought	Electoral district the candidate is seeking (see District Codes reference)
Office_Type_Sought	Type of office the candidate is seeking
District_Code_Held	Electoral district the candidate currently holds
Office_Type_Held	Type of office the candidate currently holds
Organization_Date	Date the committee was organized or reorganized
Closed_Date	Date the committee was marked inactive
D103_Date	Date of appointment of depository bank
Depository_Bank_Name	Name of the filer's depository bank
Is_Candidate_Only	Whether the filer is a candidate without a formal committee
Comm_Purpose	Purpose of the committee (required for ballot question committees, IEPACs, and PACs)
Candidate_Street_Address, Candidate_City, Candidate_State, Candidate_Zip_Code	Candidate's address
Comm_Street_Address, Comm_City, Comm_State, Comm_Zip_Code	Committee mailing address

tFILER_DOCUMENTS

Documents associated with filers, including correspondence sent to and received from filers. The majority of documents are PDFs.

Field	Description
PDF_ID	Unique identifier for the document
CPF_ID	The filer this document is associated with
File_Name	Name of the file including extension
Document_Type_ID	Type of document (see Document Types reference)
Document_Date	Date of the document
Date_Added	Date the document was added to the database

tFILER_TAGS

Metadata tags associated with filers, used to track election participation, ballot status, and other attributes.

Field	Description
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Field	Description
Tag_ID	Unique identifier
CPF_ID	The filer this tag is associated with
Tag_Type_ID	Type of tag (see Tag Types below)
Year	Relevant election year
District_Code	Relevant electoral district
Is_Special_Election	Whether the tag is related to a special election
BQ_Question_ID	Related ballot question (if applicable)
BQ_Position	"Support" or "Oppose" (for ballot question tags)

Tag Types:

Tag Type	Description
On Ballot	Candidate is on the ballot for the linked district/seat
Winner	Candidate won the related seat
Write-In	Candidate is running a write-in campaign
State BQ	Links a ballot question committee to its question and position
In Race	Candidate is seeking office but not yet officially on the ballot
Public Financing	Candidate is seeking public financing
On Ballot - General Election	Candidate made the general election ballot

Reports

tPUBLIC_REPORTS

All financial disclosure reports filed by committees. Each record represents a single report filing.

Key Fields:

Field	Description
Report_ID	Unique identifier for the report
Status	"C" for Current, "A" for Amended
CPF_ID	The filer who submitted the report
Report_Type_ID	Type of report (see Report Types reference)
Report_Type_Description	Description of the report type
Is_Amendment	Whether this report is an amendment to a prior filing

Field	Description
Amendment_Reason	Reason for the amendment, if applicable
Filing_Date	Date and time the report was filed
Reporting_Period	The period covered by the report
Report_Year	Year of the report
Start_Date	Beginning of the reporting period
End_Date	End of the reporting period

Financial Summary Fields:

Field	Description
Start_Balance	Account balance at the beginning of the reporting period
End_Balance	Account balance at the end of the reporting period
Receipts_Total	Total contributions and other receipts
Expenditures_Total	Total expenditures
Inkinds_Total	Total value of in-kind contributions
Receipts_Itemized_Total	Total of itemized (individually reported) receipts
Receipts_Unitemized_Total	Total of unitemized (aggregated) receipts
Expenditures_Itemized_Total	Total of itemized expenditures
Expenditures_Unitemized_Total	Total of unitemized expenditures
Liabilities_Itemized_Total	Total of itemized liabilities

Transaction Counts:

Field	Description
Rec_Count	Number of receipt transactions
Exp_Count	Number of expenditure transactions
Inkind_Count	Number of in-kind contribution transactions
Liab_Count	Number of liability transactions

Transactions

tPUBLIC_REPORT_ITEMS

All individual transactions reported by committees, including contributions, expenditures, in-kind contributions, and liabilities. This table contains all original transactions, including those from amended reports.

Field	Description
Item_ID	Unique identifier for the transaction
Report_ID	The report this transaction belongs to
Record_Type_ID	Type of record (see Record Types reference)
Account_CPF_ID	Related filer
Date	Date of the transaction
Amount	Dollar amount
Name, First_Name	Name of the contributor or payee
Street_Address, City, State, Zip	Address of the contributor or payee
Description	Description of the transaction
Occupation	Contributor's occupation (required for contributions of \$200 or more from individuals)
Employer	Contributor's employer (required for contributions of \$200 or more from individuals)
Principal_Officer	Principal officer (required for union and association contributions)
Tender_Type_ID	Method of contribution (see Tender Types reference)
Check_Number	Check number, if applicable
Related_CPF_ID	If the transaction involves another OCPF-registered filer, their CPF ID

tPUBLIC_SEARCH_CONTRIBUTIONS

A search-optimized view of contributions and in-kind contributions. Contains only current (non-amended) transactions.

This table is derived from tPUBLIC_REPORT_ITEMS and includes additional computed fields for search and display purposes.

Field	Description
ID	Unique identifier
Report_ID	Source report
Item_ID	Source transaction
Record_Type_ID	Type of record
Filer_CPF_ID	The filer who received the contribution
Filer_First_Name, Filer_Last_Name	Name of the receiving filer
Date	Date of the contribution

Field	Description
Amount	Dollar amount
Name, First_Name	Contributor's name
Street_Address, City, State, Zip_Code	Contributor's address
City_Code	Normalized city code (see City Code in glossary)
Description	Description (required for in-kind contributions)
Occupation	Contributor's occupation (required for \$200+ from individuals)
Employer	Contributor's employer (required for \$200+ from individuals)
Principal_Officer	Required for union and association contributions
Tender_Type_Description	Method of contribution (Check, Cash, Credit Card, etc.)
Record_Type_Description	Type of contribution
Related_CPF_ID	If from another OCPF-registered filer, their CPF ID
Is_Previous_Year_Receipt	Received in the prior year but deposited in the year of the contribution date

tPUBLIC_SEARCH_EXPENDITURES

A search-optimized view of expenditures. Contains only current (non-amended) transactions.

This table is derived from tPUBLIC_REPORT_ITEMS and includes additional computed fields for search and display purposes.

Field	Description
ID	Unique identifier
Report_ID	Source report
Item_ID	Source transaction
Record_Type_ID	Type of record
Record_Type_Description	Description of the record type
Filer_CPF_ID	The filer who made the expenditure
Filer_First_Name, Filer_Last_Name	Name of the spending filer
Date	Date of the expenditure
Amount	Dollar amount
Name, First_Name	Payee/vendor name

Field	Description
Street_Address, City, State, Zip_Code	Payee address
City_Code	Normalized city code (see City Code in glossary)
Description	Purpose of the expenditure
Check_Number	Check number, if applicable
Clarified_Name	Committee-submitted clarification of vendor name (bank-reported expenditures only)
Clarified_Purpose	Committee-submitted clarification of purpose (bank-reported expenditures only)
Related_CPF_ID	If a contribution to another filer, their CPF ID
Related_Candidate_Name	If a contribution to another filer, their name
Source_Description	Description of the source report

Ballot Questions

tELECTIONINFO_BALLOT_QUESTIONS

Ballot questions appearing on state election ballots.

Field	Description
Question_ID	Unique identifier for the ballot question
Ballot_Year	Year the question appears on the ballot
Question_Description	Description of the question
Number	Question number assigned by the Secretary of State

tELECTIONINFO_BALLOT_QUESTION_LINKS

Links between ballot question committees and the ballot questions they support or oppose.

Field	Description
CPF_ID	The filer (ballot question committee)
Position	"Support" or "Oppose"
Question_ID	The related ballot question

Reference Data

Reference tables provide standardized descriptions for codes used throughout OCPF data.

Account Types

Types of filer accounts registered with OCPF.

Code	Description
B	Banks
D	Depository Candidate
E	State Party Committee
I	Independent Expenditure PAC
L	Local Party Committee
N	Local Filers (Non-OCPF)
O	Local Non-Candidate Filers
P	Political Action Committees
S	Nonpartisan Non-Depository
U	Legislative Candidates
V	Segregated Accounts
X	Referendum Committees
Y	People's Committees

Office Types

Types of elected offices tracked by OCPF.

Office Type	Description
1	Statewide
2	Governor's Council
3	House
4	Senate
5	District Attorney
6	Sheriff
7	Mayoral
8	City Councilor
9	Clerk of Courts
10	Register of Deeds
11	Register of Probate

Office Type	Description
12	Treasurer
13	County Commissioner

District Code Ranges

District codes are grouped by office type:

Range	Office Type
101 -- 199	Senate
200 -- 299	House
400 -- 499	County Commissioner
500 -- 599	Sheriff
600 -- 699	District Attorney
700 -- 799	Treasurer
800 -- 899	Register of Probate
900 -- 999	Register of Deeds
1000 -- 1100	Various County Seats
1101 -- 1108	Governor's Council
1109 -- 1114	Statewide Seats
3000 -- 3999	Local Filers (not reporting with OCPF)
4000 -- 4999	Mayoral
5000 -- 5999	City Councilor

Note: City councilors in cities with populations over 65,000 file with OCPF.

Report Types

Types of financial reports filed with OCPF.

Type	Description	Filed By
Initial Report (D102)	First report when joining the depository system	Depository Filers
Year-End Report (D102)	Annual financial report	Depository Filers
Dissolution Report (D102)	Final report when closing a committee	Depository Filers

Type	Description	Filed By
External Activity Report (D102)	Reports activity outside the depository bank	Depository Filers
Deposit Report	Itemization of deposits into a campaign bank account	Depository Filers
Bank Report	Monthly bank-reported transaction activity	Depository Banks
Late Contribution Report	Contributions received near an election	Candidates and Ballot Question Committees
Credit Card Report	Credit card account activity	Depository Filers
Reimbursement Report	Itemized reimbursement expenses	Depository Filers
Sub-vendor Report	Payments from a vendor to sub-vendors	Depository Filers
IEPAC Report	Independent expenditure disclosure	Independent Expenditure PACs
Payroll Itemization Report	Payroll detail	Depository Filers
Segregated Account Report	Segregated account activity	Segregated Accounts
Year-End Report (IEPAC)	Annual IEPAC financial report	Independent Expenditure PACs
Initial Report (BQ)	First report for ballot question committees	Ballot Question Committees
60th Day Preceding Election (BQ)	Pre-election report	Ballot Question Committees
Year-End Report (BQ)	Annual BQ financial report	Ballot Question Committees
Dissolution Report (BQ)	Final BQ report	Ballot Question Committees
Pre-primary Report (WTC)	Pre-primary disclosure	Local Party Committees
Pre-election Report (WTC)	Pre-election disclosure	Local Party Committees
Year-End Report (WTC)	Annual local party financial report	Local Party Committees

Record Types

Each transaction on a report is assigned a record type indicating the nature of the transaction. Record types are grouped by schedule:

- **Schedule A** -- Receipts (contributions and other incoming funds)
- **Schedule B** -- Expenditures (outgoing payments)
- **Schedule C** -- In-Kind Contributions (non-monetary contributions of goods or services)

- **Schedule D** -- Liabilities (outstanding obligations)
- **Schedule S** -- Savings Account Activity

Receipts (Schedule A)

ID	Record Type	Notes
201	Individual Contribution	Includes occupation and employer for contributions of \$200+
202	Committee Contribution	Contribution from another registered committee
203	Union/Association Contribution	Includes principal officer
204	Non-Contribution Receipt	Other incoming funds (requires description)
205	Bank Interest	Interest earned on bank account
206	Candidate Loan	Loan from the candidate to the committee
207	Transfer from Savings	Transfer from a savings account, reported on deposit reports
209	IEPAC Transfer (In)	Transfer received by an Independent Expenditure PAC
210	Voluntary Payroll Deduction	PACs only
211	Business/Corporation Contribution	IEPACs and ballot question committees only
220	Aggregated Unitemized Receipts	Total of receipts below the itemization threshold
230	Donation	Donations reported on donation reports
319	Merchant Provider Fee	Fees from payment processors, reported on deposit reports
332	Out-of-Pocket Candidate Expense (as contribution)	Candidate personal spending treated as a contribution

Expenditures (Schedule B)

ID	Record Type	Notes
301	Expenditure	Standard expenditure
302	Bank Fee	Bank service fee
303	Contribution to a Registered Committee	Payment to another OCPF-registered filer
304	Liability Repayment	Repayment of a previously reported liability
305	Refunded Credit Card Contribution	Refund of a credit card contribution
307	Reimbursement	Reimbursement with itemized sub-items

ID	Record Type	Notes
308	Credit Card Payment	Credit card payment with itemized sub-items
310	Candidate Loan Repayment	Repayment of a loan from the candidate
311	Bank-Reported Expenditure	Expenditure reported by the depository bank
312	Bank Expenditure Itemization Item	Detail item on a bank expenditure itemization report
314	Refund of Contribution	Return of a contribution to the original contributor
315	Independent Expenditure	IEPAC expenditure to support or oppose a candidate
316	Administrative Expense	IEPAC administrative/operating expense
317	IEPAC Transfer (Out)	Transfer out from an Independent Expenditure PAC
318	Payroll Item	Individual payroll line item
320	Aggregated Unitemized Expenditures	Total of expenditures below the itemization threshold
331	Out-of-Pocket Candidate Expense (as loan)	Candidate personal spending treated as a loan/liability
351	Reimbursement Sub-Item	Individual expense within a reimbursement report
354	Credit Card Sub-Item	Individual charge within a credit card report

In-Kind Contributions (Schedule C)

ID	Record Type	Notes
401	Individual In-Kind Contribution	Non-monetary contribution from an individual
402	Committee In-Kind Contribution	Non-monetary contribution from another committee
403	Union/Association In-Kind Contribution	Non-monetary contribution from a union or association
404	Loan Forgiveness	Cancellation of a previously reported loan
405	Corporate In-Kind Contribution	IEPACs and ballot question committees only
420	Aggregated Unitemized In-Kind Contributions	Total of in-kind contributions below the itemization threshold

Liabilities (Schedule D)

ID	Record Type	Notes
501	Liability	Outstanding financial obligation
502	Liability for Independent Expenditure	IEPAC liability incurred for an independent expenditure
509	Liability Writeoff	Liability written off

ID	Record Type	Notes
510	Liability Settlement	Liability resolved through settlement

Savings Account Activity (Schedule S)

ID	Record Type	Notes
701	Savings Account	Savings account record
720	Initial Deposit / Account Opened	Opening deposit for a savings account
721	Interest Earned	Interest earned on savings
722	Transfer In	Transfer into savings
723	Other Credit	Other credit to savings
751	Fee/Penalty	Fee or penalty on savings account
752	Transfer Out	Transfer out of savings
753	Other Debit	Other debit from savings
754	Account Closed	Savings account closure

Other

ID	Record Type	Notes
801	Bank Credit	Credit posted to a filer's account, reported on bank reports only
951	Sub-Vendor Sub-Item	Individual payment within a sub-vendor report
952	Sub-Vendor Payment (Stand-Alone)	Stand-alone sub-vendor payment item

Tender Types

Methods by which contributions are made.

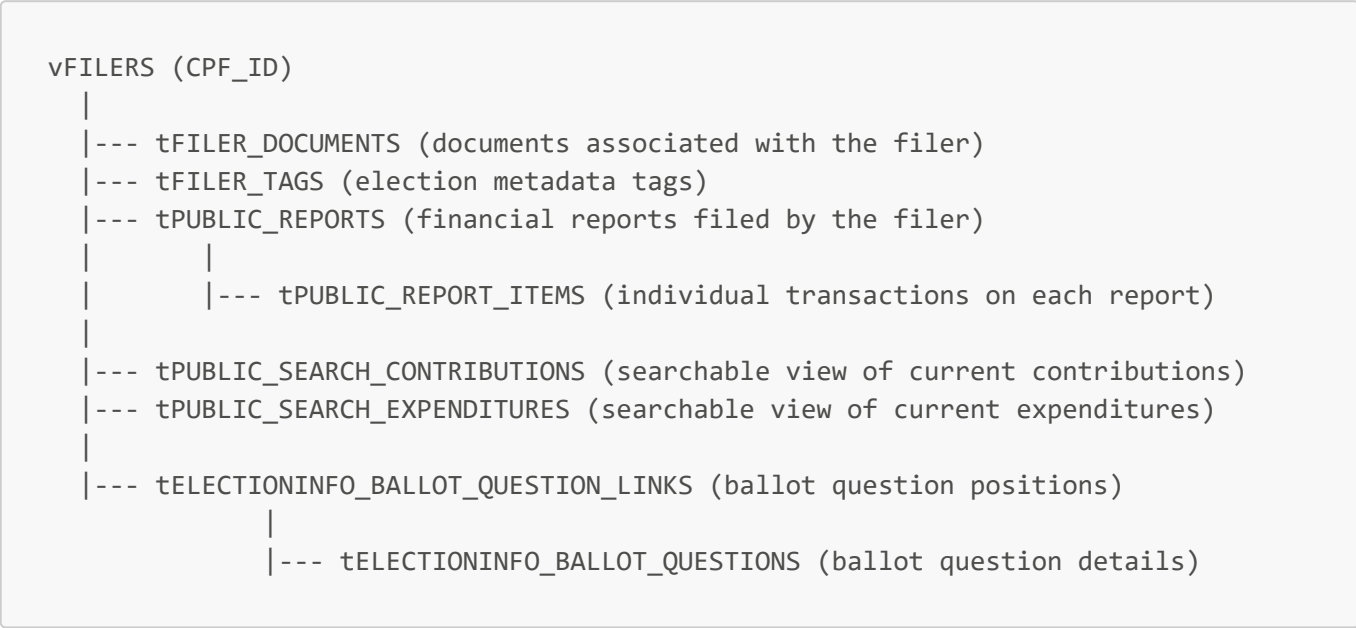
Type	Description
1	Check
3	Credit Card
4	Transfer
5	Other
6	Cash
7	Money Order

Document Types

Types of documents associated with filer records, including correspondence, audit letters, and other filings. Each document type includes a public-facing description and an indication of whether it is currently in use.

Relationships Between Data Sources

The following diagram illustrates how the main data sources relate to each other:



Common Linking Fields:

- **CPF_ID** links filers to their reports, documents, tags, and transactions.
 - **Report_ID** links reports to their individual transactions.
 - **Record_Type_ID** identifies the type of each transaction (via tREFERENCE_RECORD_TYPES).
 - **District_Code** identifies the electoral district (via tREFERENCE_FILER_DISTRICT_CODES).
 - **Question_ID** links ballot question committees to specific ballot questions.
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