

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance Guide

Changing the purpose of a candidate's committee

Candidate who files with OCPF and is seeking an office that also files with OCPF

It is common for candidates who hold one office, or are organized for a specific office, to decide to run for other offices.

Generally, if a candidate files with OCPF, the disclosure requirements are the same — the candidate's bank files monthly campaign finance reports on a candidate's behalf. Meanwhile, candidates file deposit reports shortly after making a deposit at the bank.

Prior to a candidate raising or spending money for the new office sought, he or she must file a [“change of purpose” form](#) with OCPF. The change of purpose will then be noted on OCPF's website, [here](#).

Note 1: There are no “exploratory committees.” If a candidate begins to ask donors for contributions to run for the new seat, then the candidate must file the change of purpose form.

Note 2: A candidate for House or Senate who changes purpose to another office that files with OCPF will have more frequent statutory filing requirements for deposit reports, [explained in this guide](#).

Candidate who files with a local election official and is seeking an office that files with OCPF

A candidate who files locally, for offices such as school committee, selectboard and city council in cities with fewer than 65,000 residents, will transition to OCPF to run for an office that files with the state.

Steps:

- Organize with OCPF online, [here](#).
- File a “change of purpose” [form](#) with OCPF, and a copy with the local election official.
- Submit a copy of the front page of the last campaign finance report filed locally (the M102 form) to OCPF.
- Appoint a depository bank to file reports on behalf of the candidate. [The D103 form](#) is used to appoint a bank. [Click here](#) for a list of banks that participate in the depository system.
- Work with an OCPF audit team member to file a “transition in” report. This report will disclose all activity between the last report filed locally, and the date the depository bank account was opened. [Tutorial](#).

Note 3: The account balance and any outstanding liabilities from any previous campaign will transition to the campaign for the new office sought.

Note 4: We highly recommend communicating with an OCPF auditor throughout this process.

Note 5: Barnstable Assembly of Delegates candidates file with OCPF in the non-depository system (no depository bank).

Candidate who files with OCPF and is seeking an office that files locally

Candidates who hold or run for an office that files with OCPF may decide to run for a local office, such as selectboard, school committee or city council in communities with fewer than 65,000 people.

Such a candidate should file the “change of purpose” form with OCPF and with his or her local election official. OCPF will then work with the candidate to file a “transition out” report to end OCPF filing obligations. The candidate will begin to file on the local schedule in the non-depository system of reporting.