

August 2020



CHECKING IN

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A MONTHLY CAMPAIGN FINANCE NEWSLETTER FOR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS

How does OCPF resolve legal cases?

OCPF's legal team resolves several dozen campaign finance cases each year, many on the municipal level, based on public complaints and audit issues. **How do we do this?**

Primarily, our agency closes cases through "**public resolution letters**." These letters address the issues in an informal way, with an educational theme or a requirement that some corrective action be taken. We may also enter into "**disposition agreements (DA)**," usually for more serious matters. The agreement is voluntary, and requires the subject to take certain specific actions. DAs usually involve a civil forfeiture payment to the state.

OCPF may also refer a case to the Office of the Attorney General for further action.

Legal actions are posted to the OCPF [website here](http://www.ocpf.us). If you have legal questions concerning possible campaign finance violations in your city or town, please email our legal department: OCPF@cpf.state.ma.us

We've updated our memos on how to transfer a candidate from the municipal level to the state level, and vice versa

[M-95-07](#): Procedure to transfer a candidate's political committee from the municipal level to the state level

[M-95-08](#): Procedure to transfer a candidate's political committee from the state level to the municipal level

Example: A state representative candidate is unsuccessful in 2020, and then decides to run for selectman in 2021

FILING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS BY EMAIL

FAQ: MAY CANDIDATES SIGN, SCAN AND THEN EMAIL REPORTS TO THEIR CITY OR TOWN CLERKS?

ANSWER: YES

2021 CITY ELECTIONS

The city elections are next year, but many mayoral candidates are already raising and spending money in 2020.

OCPF has created a page to track the campaign finance activity of mayoral candidates.

[Click here](#) to see a list of candidates for mayor, and their campaign finance activity (as of the end of the last month).

FYI: [Click here](#) to see lists of all 2020 House and Senate candidates in your community, with their year-to-date campaign finance activity.

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