

NOVEMBER 2019



CHECKING IN



Monthly Informational Mailer for Local Election Officials

617-979-8300

2019 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

PERIODIC REPORTS WERE DUE OCT 28 FOR FALL ELECTIONS

Municipal candidates* running for office in the Nov. 5 election were required to file campaign finance reports by Oct. 28.

OCPF encourages you to post the pre-election campaign finance reports on your municipal websites prior to the Nov. 5 election. However, the statute only requires that they be posted within 30 days of the filing deadline.

[Click here](#) for a short tutorial on posting campaign finance reports to your municipal website.

**Not including mayoral and city council candidates in cities with populations of 65,000 or more.*

MUNICIPAL BALLOT QUESTION ELECTION

WHEN MUST A GROUP FORM A BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEE?

When city or town voters decide on a ballot question, groups and individuals sometimes get involved to support or oppose the question. Here are some basic guidelines on when a ballot question committee needs to organize with your office by filing a [M101BQ](#) form:

- If two or more people or groups pool resources (money or in-kind) to support or oppose a question, a BQ committee must be formed.
- If a group or individual raises money for the purpose of supporting or opposing a question, a BQ committee must be formed. For example, if a PTO collects contributions from parents for a town-wide mailing concerning a ballot question, it must form a committee.
- If a question is only being decided at town meeting – and not subsequently by voters at an election – a ballot question committee is not required.

Additionally, a ballot question committee **does not** need to be formed if a group makes expenditures from its general treasury to support or oppose a ballot question.

For example, if the chamber of commerce uses its general fund to pay for a newspaper ad supporting a question, it is not a ballot question committee. However, the chamber still must file a [M22](#) form disclosing the expenditure.

[Click here](#) for the ballot question committee tutorial.

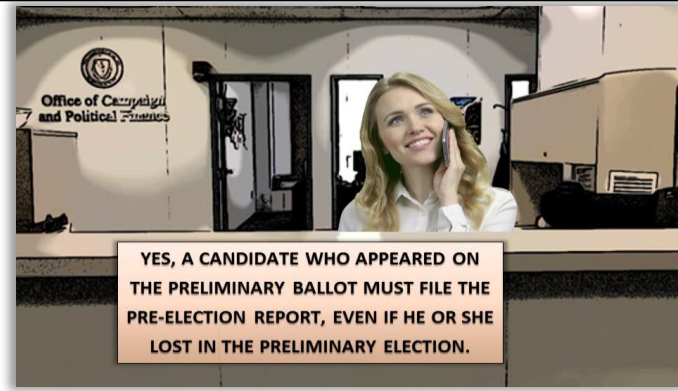
DO YOU HAVE NEW EMPLOYEES IN YOUR OFFICE?

If you have new employees in your office and you'd like them to have a general awareness of the campaign finance requirements, we recommend they read this guide ([available here](#)).

Visual learners may want to watch [this 6-minute tutorial](#) for local election officials. It's a summary of the guide.

IF A MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE LOSES IN THE PRELIMINARY ELECTION, DOES HE OR SHE STILL NEED TO FILE THE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT?

FAQ



YES, A CANDIDATE WHO APPEARED ON THE PRELIMINARY BALLOT MUST FILE THE PRE-ELECTION REPORT, EVEN IF HE OR SHE LOST IN THE PRELIMINARY ELECTION.

If you've never used OCPF's [website](#) to search for campaign finance data, [click here](#) for a short tutorial on how to find information.