Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 994 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H2/4/25 H3/18/25 S4/7/25
2	95th General Assembly A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2025HOUSE BILL 1243
4	
5	By: Representatives Underwood, Long, Rose, McAlindon
6	By: Senator C. Penzo
7	
8	For An Act To Be Entitled
9	AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE;
10	TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
11	AND EXPENDITURES; TO AMEND REPORTING FOR CANDIDATES
12	FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWNSHIP, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE;
13	TO AMEND REPORTING FOR CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICE;
14	TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND FOR
15	OTHER PURPOSES.
16	
17	
18	Subtitle
19	TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY REGARDING
20	CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES;
21	TO AMEND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING AND
22	PROTECT ELECTION INTEGRITY; AND TO AMEND
23	PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996.
24	
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
26	
27	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(a), concerning reports of
28	contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal
29	office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as
30	follows:
31	(a) <u>(1)</u> Reports required. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
32	section, each candidate for school district, township, or municipal office,
33	or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall <u>file with the Secretary</u>
34	of State in an election year for the office that the candidate is seeking:
35	(1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a
36	ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and



1	expenditures made during that year.
2	(B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen
3	(15) days after the end of the year;
4	(2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential
5	primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or
6	special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a
7	preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made
8	between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten
9	(10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall
10	cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of
11	time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose
12	and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election;
13	(3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in
14	which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential
15	primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or
16	special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular
17	office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall
18	appear on a ballot, file a final report of all contributions received and
19	expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required
20	to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has
21	received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars
22	(\$500);
23	(4) File supplemental reports of all contributions received and
24	expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report. The
25	supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt
26	of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;
27	(5)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month
28	in which the candidate has withdrawn, file a final report of all
29	contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on
30	reports previously required to be filed.
31	(B) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the
32	candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and
33	(6) If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an
34	election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this
35	subsection (A)(i) A monthly report of all contributions received and
36	expenditures made during each month beginning with the month of January of a

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1	calendar year in which a candidate may be listed on a ballot for election.
2	(ii) A monthly report shall not be due under this
3	subdivision (a)(1)(A) for a month in which certain days of that month are
4	included in a preelection report required under subdivision $(a)(1)(B)$ of this
5	section or a final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this
6	section.
7	(iii) In the case of a primary or runoff election,
8	those days of the month occurring after the date of the election shall be
9	carried forward and included in the next monthly report required under this
10	subdivision (a)(1)(A).
11	(iv) The monthly report shall be filed no later than
12	twenty (20) days after the end of each month, except that the final report
13	shall be filed as required in subdivision (a)(l)(C)(i) of this section;
14	(B)(i) No later than seven (7) days before a preferential
15	primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or
16	special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, a
17	preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made
18	between the period covered by the previous report and the period ten (10)
19	days before the election.
20	(ii) In case of a runoff election, the preelection
21	report required under this subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall cover all
22	contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that
23	begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends
24	ten (10) days before the runoff election;
25	(C)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
26	expenditures made for that election that have not been disclosed on reports
27	previously required to be filed no later than twenty (20) days after the end
28	of the month following the month in which the candidate's name has appeared
29	on the ballot in a primary election, runoff election, general election,
30	school election, or special election or when only one (1) candidate qualifies
31	for a particular office or position and no position or name of an unopposed
32	candidate shall appear on a ballot.
33	(ii) A final report is required under this
34	subdivision (a)(1)(C) whether or not a candidate has received contributions
35	or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and
36	(D)(i) A final report of all contributions received and

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1	expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required
2	to be filed.
3	(ii) The final report under this subdivision
4	(a)(1)(D) shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the
5	month in which the candidate has withdrawn.
6	(iii) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign,
7	the candidate shall notify the Secretary of State in writing of the
8	withdrawal.
9	(2)(A) A candidate shall not be required to file a fourth
10	quarter report under this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining
11	campaign funds after an election but does not have any activity before the
12	end of the year.
13	(B) A candidate shall continue filing the reports required
14	by this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining campaign funds and raises
15	campaign funds for a future campaign or expends campaign funds for office
16	holder expenses or a future election.
17	(3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in a
18	year for which there is no election for the office that the candidate is
19	seeking, each candidate for school district, township, or municipal office,
20	or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall file with the Secretary
21	of State no later than December 31 an annual report of all contributions
22	received and expenditures made for the year.
23	
24	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(d), concerning reports of
25	contributions not required for candidates for school district, township, or
26	municipal office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to
27	read as follows:
28	(d) Reports Not Required.
29	(1) A candidate who has not received contributions or made
30	expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall not be required
31	to file any preelection reports required under subdivision (a)(1) <u>subsection</u>
32	(a) of this section.
33	(2) A candidate who has received contributions or made
34	expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) but not exceeding five
35	thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall only file:
36	(A) A preelection report required under subdivision

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(B) A final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section. (3) In calculating the amount of contributions received or expenditures made for purposes of this exception, the payment of the filing fee from the candidate's personal funds shall not be considered as either a contribution or an expenditure. 8 (2)(4) The preelection reports referenced in subdivision (a)(J) 9 subsection (a) of this section are required only for candidates with 0 opponents in those elections. 11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a), concerning reports of 12 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a), concerning reports of 13 contributions for candidates for county office and resulting from Initiated 14 Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows: 15 (a)(1) Reports Required. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this 16 section, each candidate for county office or a person acting in the 17 candidate's behalf shall file with the Secretary of State in an election year 18 for the office that the candidate is seeking: 19 (1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a 20 ballot for cleation, file an annual report of all contributions received	1	(a)(l)(B) of this section; and
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 ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and expenditures made during that year. (B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of the year; (2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name appeared on the ballot in any preferential 	18	for the office that the candidate is seeking:
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(B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of the year; (2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	20	ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and
(15) days after the end of the year; (2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and endo ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	21	expenditures made during that year.
(2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	22	(B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen
primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	23	(15) days after the end of the year;
which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	24	(2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential
of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	25	primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in
covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election; (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	26	which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report
29 the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all 30 contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that 31 begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends 32 ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in 34 which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	27	of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period
30 contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that 31 begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends 32 ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in 34 which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	28	covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before
31 begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends 32 ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in 34 which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	29	the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all
32 ten (10) days before the runoff election; 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in 34 which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	30	contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that
 33 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in 34 which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential 	31	begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends
34 which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential	32	ten (10) days before the runoff election;
	33	(3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in
	34	which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential
35 primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or	35	primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or
36 when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and	36	when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and

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1	no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file
2	a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have
3	not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report
4	is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or
5	made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);
6	(4) File supplemental reports of all contributions received and
7	expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report, and the
8	supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt
9	of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;
10	(5)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month
11	in which the candidate has withdrawn, a final report of all contributions
12	received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports
13	previously required to be filed.
14	(B) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the
15	candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and
16	(6) If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an
17	election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this
18	subsection (A)(i) A monthly report of all contributions received and
19	expenditures made during each month beginning with the month of January of a
20	calendar year in which a candidate may be listed on a ballot for election.
21	(ii) A monthly report shall not be due under this
22	subdivision (a)(1)(A) for a month in which certain days of that month are
23	included in a preelection report required under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this
24	section or a final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this
25	section.
26	(iii) In the case of a primary or runoff election,
27	those days of the month occurring after the date of the election shall be
28	carried forward and included in the next monthly report required under this
29	subdivision (a)(1)(A).
30	(iv) The monthly report shall be filed no later than
31	twenty (20) days after the end of each month, except that the final report
32	shall be filed as required in subdivision (a)(l)(C)(i) of this section;
33	campaign contributions or expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);
34	(B)(i) No later than seven (7) days before a preferential
35	primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in
36	which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, a preelection report of all

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1	contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by
2	the previous report and the period ten (10) days before the election.
3	(ii) In case of a runoff election, the preelection
4	report required under this subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall cover all
5	contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that
6	begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends
7	ten (10) days before the runoff election;
8	(C)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
9	expenditures made for that election that have not been disclosed on reports
10	previously required to be filed no later than twenty (20) days after the end
11	of the month following the month in which the candidate's name has appeared
12	on the ballot in a primary election, runoff election, general election, or
13	special election or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular
14	office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall
15	appear on a ballot.
16	(ii) A final report is required under this
17	subdivision (a)(1)(C) whether or not a candidate has received contributions
18	or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and
19	(D)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
20	expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required
21	to be filed.
22	(ii) The final report under this subdivision
23	(a)(1)(D) shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the
24	month in which the candidate has withdrawn.
25	(iii) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign,
26	the candidate shall notify the Secretary of State in writing of the
27	withdrawal.
28	(2)(A) A candidate shall not be required to file a fourth
29	quarter report under this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining
30	campaign funds after an election but does not have any activity before the
31	end of the year.
32	(B) A candidate shall continue filing the reports required
33	by this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining campaign funds and raises
34	campaign funds for a future campaign or expends campaign funds for office
35	holder expenses or a future election.
36	(3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in a

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1	year for which there is no election for the office that the candidate is
2	seeking, each candidate for county office, or a person acting in the
3	candidate's behalf, shall file with the Secretary of State not later than
4	December 31 an annual report of all contributions received and expenditures
5	made for the year.
6	
7	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(d), concerning reports of
8	contributions not required for candidates for county office and resulting
9	from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:
10	(d) Reports Not Required.
11	(1) A candidate who has not received contributions or made
12	expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall not be required
13	to file any preelection reports required under subdivision (a)(1) subsection
14	(a) of this section.
15	(2) A candidate who has received contributions or made
16	expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) but not exceeding five
17	thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall only file:
18	(A) A preelection report required under subdivision
19	(a)(l)(B) of this section; and
20	(B) A final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of
21	this section.
22	(3) In calculating the amount of contributions received or
23	expenditures made for purposes of this exception, the payment of the filing
24	fee from the candidate's personal funds shall not be considered as either a
25	contribution or an expenditure.
26	(2)(4) The preelection reports referenced in subdivision (a)(1)
27	subsection (a) of this section are required only for candidates with
28	opponents in those elections.
29	/s/Underwood
30	
31	
32	APPROVED: 4/22/25
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