

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H2/4/25 H3/18/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1243

By: Representatives Underwood, Long, Rose, *McAlindon*

By: Senator C. Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE;
TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
AND EXPENDITURES; TO AMEND REPORTING FOR CANDIDATES
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWNSHIP, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE;
TO AMEND REPORTING FOR CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICE;
TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY REGARDING
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES;
TO AMEND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING AND
PROTECT ELECTION INTEGRITY; AND TO AMEND
PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(a), concerning reports of
contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal
office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as
follows:

(a)(1) Reports required. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
section, each candidate for school district, township, or municipal office,
or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall file with the county
clerk in an election year for the office that the candidate is seeking:

~~(1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a
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~~

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 required under this
12 subdivision (a)(1)(A) shall be filed no later than twenty (20) days after the
13 end of each month, except that the final report covering the month during
14 which an election is held shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the
15 end of the month in which the last election is held at which the candidate
16 seeks nomination and after the end of the month in which the general election
17 is held.

18 (v) With respect to a special election, the
19 candidate shall file monthly reports under this subdivision (a)(1)(A)
20 beginning with the month in which the special election candidate's total
21 campaign contributions or expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);

22 (B)(i) No later than seven (7) days before a preferential
23 primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or
24 special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, a
25 preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made
26 between the period covered by the previous report and the period ten (10)
27 days before the election.

28 (ii) In case of a runoff election, the preelection
29 report required under this subdivision (a)(1)(B) 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 (C)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
34 expenditures made for that election that have not been disclosed on reports
35 previously required to be filed no later than the last day of the month after
36 the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot

1 in a primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or
2 special election or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular
3 office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall
4 appear on a ballot.

5 (ii) A final report is required under this
6 subdivision (a)(1)(C) whether or not a candidate has received contributions
7 or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and

8 (D)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
9 expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required
10 to be filed.

11 (ii) The final report under this subdivision
12 (a)(1)(D) shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the
13 month in which the candidate has withdrawn.

14 (iii) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign,
15 the candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal.

16 (2)(A) A candidate shall not be required to file a fourth
17 quarter report under this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining
18 campaign funds after an election but does not have any activity before the
19 end of the year.

20 (B) A candidate shall continue filing the reports required
21 by this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining campaign funds and raises
22 campaign funds for a future campaign or expends campaign funds for office
23 holder expenses or a future election.

24 (3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in a
25 year for which there is no election for the office that the candidate is
26 seeking, each candidate for school district, township, or municipal office,
27 or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall file with the county
28 clerk no later than December 31 an annual report of all contributions
29 received and expenditures made for the year.

30
31 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(d), concerning reports of*
32 *contributions not required for candidates for school district, township, or*
33 *municipal office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to*
34 *read as follows:*

35 *(d) Reports Not Required.*

36 *(1) A candidate who has not received contributions or made*

1 expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall not be required
2 to file any preelection reports required under ~~subdivision (a)(1)~~ subsection
3 (a) of this section.

4 (2) A candidate who has received contributions or made
5 expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) but not exceeding five
6 thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall only file:

7 (A) A preelection report required under subdivision
8 (a)(1)(B) of this section; and

9 (B) A final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of
10 this section.

11 (3) In calculating the amount of contributions received or
12 expenditures made for purposes of this exception, the payment of the filing
13 fee from the candidate's personal funds shall not be considered as either a
14 contribution or an expenditure.

15 ~~(2)(4)~~ The preelection reports referenced in ~~subdivision (a)(1)~~
16 subsection (a) of this section are required only for candidates with
17 opponents in those elections.

18
19 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a), concerning reports of
20 contributions for candidates for county office and resulting from Initiated
21 Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

22 (a)(1) Reports Required. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
23 section, each candidate for county office or a person acting in the
24 candidate's behalf shall file with the county clerk in an election year for
25 the office that the candidate is seeking:

26 ~~(1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a~~
27 ~~ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and~~
28 ~~expenditures made during that year.~~

29 ~~(B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen~~
30 ~~(15) days after the end of the year;~~

31 ~~(2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential~~
32 ~~primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in~~
33 ~~which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report~~
34 ~~of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period~~
35 ~~covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before~~
36 ~~the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all~~

1 ~~contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that~~
2 ~~begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends~~
3 ~~ten (10) days before the runoff election;~~

4 ~~(3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in~~
5 ~~which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential~~
6 ~~primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or~~
7 ~~when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and~~
8 ~~no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file~~
9 ~~a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have~~
10 ~~not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report~~
11 ~~is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or~~
12 ~~made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);~~

13 ~~(4) File supplemental reports of all contributions received and~~
14 ~~expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report, and the~~
15 ~~supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt~~
16 ~~of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;~~

17 ~~(5)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month~~
18 ~~in which the candidate has withdrawn, a final report of all contributions~~
19 ~~received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports~~
20 ~~previously required to be filed.~~

21 ~~(B) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the~~
22 ~~candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and~~

23 ~~(6) If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an~~
24 ~~election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this~~
25 ~~subsection (A)(i) A monthly report of all contributions received and~~
26 ~~expenditures made during each month beginning with the month of January of a~~
27 ~~calendar year in which a candidate may be listed on a ballot for election.~~

28 ~~(ii) A monthly report shall not be due under this~~
29 ~~subdivision (a)(1)(A) for a month in which certain days of that month are~~
30 ~~included in a preelection report required under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this~~
31 ~~section or a final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this~~
32 ~~section.~~

33 ~~(iii) In the case of a primary or runoff election,~~
34 ~~those days of the month occurring after the date of the election shall be~~
35 ~~carried forward and included in the next monthly report required under this~~
36 ~~subdivision (a)(1)(A).~~

1 (iv) The monthly report required under this
2 subdivision (a)(1)(A) shall be filed no later than twenty (20) days after the
3 end of each month, except that the final report covering the month during
4 which an election is held shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the
5 end of the month in which the last election is held at which the candidate
6 seeks nomination and after the end of the month in which the general election
7 is held.

8 (v) With respect to a special election, the
9 candidate shall file monthly reports under this subdivision (a)(1)(A)
10 beginning with the month in which the special election candidate's total
11 campaign contributions or expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);

12 (B)(i) No later than seven (7) days before a preferential
13 primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in
14 which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, a preelection report of all
15 contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by
16 the previous report and the period ten (10) days before the election.

17 (ii) In case of a runoff election, the preelection
18 report required under this subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall cover all
19 contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that
20 begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends
21 ten (10) days before the runoff election;

22 (C)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
23 expenditures made for that election that have not been disclosed on reports
24 previously required to be filed no later than the last day of the month after
25 the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot
26 in a primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election
27 or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position
28 and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot.

29 (ii) A final report is required under this
30 subdivision (a)(1)(C) whether or not a candidate has received contributions
31 or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and

32 (D)(i) A final report of all contributions received and
33 expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required
34 to be filed.

35 (ii) The final report under this subdivision
36 (a)(1)(D) shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the

1 month in which the candidate has withdrawn.

2 (iii) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign,
3 the candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal.

4 (2)(A) A candidate shall not be required to file a fourth
5 quarter report under this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining
6 campaign funds after an election but does not have any activity before the
7 end of the year.

8 (B) A candidate shall continue filing the reports required
9 by this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining campaign funds and raises
10 campaign funds for a future campaign or expends campaign funds for office
11 holder expenses or a future election.

12 (3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in a
13 year for which there is no election for the office that the candidate is
14 seeking, each candidate for county office, or a person acting in the
15 candidate's behalf, shall file with the county clerk not later than December
16 31 an annual report of all contributions received and expenditures made for
17 the year.

18
19 *SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(d), concerning reports of*
20 *contributions not required for candidates for county office and resulting*
21 *from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:*

22 *(d) Reports Not Required.*

23 *(1) A candidate who has not received contributions or made*
24 *expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall not be required*
25 *to file any preelection reports required under ~~subdivision (a)(1)~~ subsection*
26 *(a) of this section.*

27 *(2) A candidate who has received contributions or made*
28 *expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) but not exceeding five*
29 *thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall only file:*

30 *(A) A preelection report required under subdivision*
31 *(a)(1)(B) of this section; and*

32 *(B) A final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of*
33 *this section.*

34 *(3) In calculating the amount of contributions received or*
35 *expenditures made for purposes of this exception, the payment of the filing*
36 *fee from the candidate's personal funds shall not be considered as either a*

1 contribution or an expenditure.

2 ~~(2)(4)~~ The preelection reports referenced in ~~subdivision (a)(1)~~
3 subsection (a) of this section are required only for candidates with
4 opponents in those elections.

5 /s/Underwood