



New Mexico
Office of the Secretary of State
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER

New Mexico Public Financing Guide for the 2018 Election Cycle



Revision History

Revision Number	Date	Updates
1.1	8/17/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of eligible office: Court of Appeals Position #3• Update to Appendix B
1.2	12/11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of eligible office: Court of Appeals Position #4 & #5
1.3	01/08/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update to Court of Appeals Position #4

Introduction

The information contained in the New Mexico Public Financing Guide for the 2018 Election Cycle (Guide) is intended for use as a reference for candidates interested in applying for public financing for the 2018 election cycle. We encourage you to always refer to the Voter Action Act, Sections 1-19A-1 to 1-19A-17 NMSA 1978 (VAA), as the ultimate legal authority.

Our office will happily assist candidates and their campaign committees with the VAA application and certification process for public financing. If you are pursuing public financing, we strongly suggest you review both the VAA and the Guide before beginning the process.

For further information, please contact the ethics staff of the Bureau of Elections. The ethics staff can provide you with the required forms and assist with any questions regarding application procedures.

New Mexico Bureau of Elections – Ethics Staff

Telephone: (505) 827-3600 / (800) 477-3632

Email: sos.ethics@state.nm.us

For your convenience, the Guide as well as all VAA forms and information are available on our website: [2018 Voter Action Act Forms and Information](#).

Key Terms

Applicant candidate: A candidate who is running for a covered office and who is seeking to obtain public financing as a certified candidate.

Certified candidate: A candidate running for a covered office who has applied and been certified to obtain public financing.

Covered office: Any office of the public regulation commission (PRC) or a statewide judicial office (New Mexico Supreme Court Justice and Court of Appeals Judge).

Independent candidate: A candidate that is not associated with a political party or is a member of a non-qualified minor party. This is also described as a declined to state (DTS) candidate.

Major party candidate: A candidate registered with a political party that has been qualified as a major party according to Section 1-7-2 NMSA 1978. As of July 31, 2017, the following parties are qualified major parties in New Mexico:

- New Mexico Democratic Party
- New Mexico Republican Party

Minor party candidate: A candidate registered with a political party that has been qualified as a minor party according to Section 1-7-2 NMSA 1978. As of July 31, 2017, the following parties are qualified minor parties in New Mexico:

- Libertarian Party of New Mexico
- Green Party of New Mexico
- Better for America Party of New Mexico

Qualifying contribution: A contribution to the Public Election Fund in the amount of five dollars (\$5) in support of an applicant candidate. There are specific restrictions and requirements for making and accepting a qualifying contribution that are outlined further in the Guide.

Qualifying period: The designated time period in which an applicant candidate may collect seed money and qualifying contributions.

Seed money: A contribution to an applicant candidate's campaign in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per donor that is raised for the primary purpose of collecting qualifying contributions and petition signatures. There are specific restrictions and requirements for seed money that are outlined further in the Guide.

Voter Action Act: The statutory authority that outlines and governs public financing in New Mexico. Sections 1-19A-1 to 1-19A-17 NMSA 1978.

For a complete list of key terms (definitions) used in the VAA, please see Section 1-19A-2 NMSA 1978.

Who is eligible to apply for public financing?

Candidates for the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) and statewide judicial offices (New Mexico Supreme Court Justice and Court of Appeals Judge) are eligible to apply for public financing under the VAA. The VAA specifically excludes judicial retention elections from public financing.

The following covered offices are eligible to apply for public financing in the 2018 election cycle:

1. *Judge of the Court of Appeals – Position 1 (vacated by Michael Bustamante)*
2. *Judge of the Court of Appeals – Position 2 (vacated by Roderick Kennedy)*
3. *Judge of the Court of Appeals – Position 3 (vacated by James Wechsler)*
4. *Judge of the Court of Appeals – Position 4 (vacated by Jonathan Sutin)*
5. *Judge of the Court of Appeals – Position 5 (To be vacated by Timothy Garcia – effective 2/2/18)*
6. *Public Regulation Commissioner – District #2*
7. *Public Regulation Commissioner – District #4*
8. *Public Regulation Commissioner – District #5*

The Guide will be updated if there are additional vacancies on the ballot for covered offices.

What is public financing?

The VAA provides individuals seeking candidacy for eligible offices with an opportunity to apply for public funds to finance the candidate's campaign. The funds are held by the state treasury in the public election fund (Fund) and disbursed to candidates once they are certified by the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS).

Participation in public financing is optional. However, candidates that do opt to participate are required to follow the application process prescribed by the SOS in order to meet all requirements for certification as set forth in the VAA. The application process is outlined further in a later section of the Guide.

Candidates who qualify to receive public financing are subject to all requirements under the VAA, as well as all other applicable statutes and administrative rules, including, but not limited to, the New Mexico Campaign Reporting Act. Additionally, judicial candidates have specific requirements prescribed by the Judicial Code of Conduct (Code). Although the SOS is not responsible for the administration of the Code, the SOS has developed the application process in alignment with the Code in an effort to reduce any conflicts for participating judicial candidates.

It is important to note there are restrictions on collecting campaign contributions under the VAA. Specifically, candidates who are applying for public financing may not collect contributions that are not explicitly authorized by the VAA. Certified candidates are eligible to receive two distributions from the Fund; one for the primary election and one for the general election. The funds for the general election will only be provided to certified candidates who are successful in the primary election.

The VAA provides a formula used to determine the amount of contributions that are required to qualify for certification and the amount to be disbursed from the Fund. The formulas are based

on the current number of registered voters, and the SOS utilizes the number of registered voters as of July 31, 2017. This date was selected because candidates may begin raising seed money contributions as of August 3, 2017. The number of qualifying contributions and the amount of fund distributions for both the primary and general elections are finalized at the beginning of the election cycle and **will not** be readjusted based upon voter registration growth or decline throughout the election cycle. The specific number of qualifying contributions and fund distribution amounts are outlined further in a later section of this Guide.

What should interested candidates do first?

Once a candidate has decided to apply for public financing, he or she must file a Declaration of Intent with the SOS. Major party candidates may submit the form as early as August 3, 2017, and no later than March 20, 2018. Independent and minor party candidates may submit their declarations beginning December 3, 2017 up until June 28, 2018.

The Declaration of Intent must be filed with the SOS prior to spending or receiving \$500. A candidate who would like to file a Declaration of Intent may do so by completing and submitting the form prescribed by the SOS, which is available on the SOS's website: [Declaration of Intent Form](#). The completed form may be mailed or dropped off in person at the SOS during regular business hours. A time stamped copy of the received form may be provided to the candidate upon request.

- Upon filing the Declaration of Intent to pursue public financing, a candidate becomes an **applicant candidate** and is subject to all of the provisions and requirements of the VAA.
- A candidate is prohibited from collecting **qualifying contributions** before filing a Declaration of Intent with the SOS.

The VAA allows applicant candidates to begin collecting seed money 60 days prior to the qualifying period through the last day of the qualifying period. An applicant candidate may raise up to a maximum of \$5,000 of seed money.

Candidates are not required to collect seed money in order to participate in public financing. However, if a candidate does decide to collect seed money, he or she must adhere to the following restrictions. A candidate may not receive contributions from corporations, associations or partnerships formed under state law or from labor organizations. An applicant candidate may contribute the maximum of \$5,000 in seed money to his or her own campaign, however, any other seed money donation received must be limited to one hundred dollars (\$100) per donor. Any unspent seed money shall be forfeited to the Fund.

A candidate may raise or spend up to \$500 of seed money before filing a Declaration of Intent. Raising more than \$500 in seed money before filing a Declaration of Intent will result in a candidate being disqualified from receiving public financing for the election cycle.

When is the qualifying period?

The qualifying period is the timeframe in which applicant candidates may collect the required amount of qualifying contributions.

Major Parties

Major party applicant candidates may collect qualifying contributions from October 2, 2017, through March 20, 2018.

Independent and Minor Parties

Independent and minor party candidates may collect qualifying contributions from February 1, 2018, through June 28, 2018.

What is a qualifying contribution?

A qualifying contribution is a donation of exactly five dollars (\$5.00) in the form of cash, check or money order. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the **Public Election Fund**.

Qualifying contributions are collected by either the candidate and/or their representative. The individual that collects the contribution is responsible for ensuring that the contributor completes and signs the: [Qualifying Contribution Receipt](#). Upon signing the receipt the collector is confirming the following VAA requirements.

- The qualifying contribution was made by a registered voter who is eligible to vote for the covered office that the applicant candidate is seeking. Registered voters making a qualifying contribution are not required to be members of the candidate's political party. However, if they are donating to an applicant candidate running for the office of PRC, they must be registered voters of the respective district.
- The qualifying contribution was made during the designated qualifying period and obtained through efforts made with the knowledge and approval of the applicant candidate; and
- The qualifying contribution receipt identifies the contributor's name and residential address¹ and is **signed** by the contributor.

No payment, gift, or anything of value shall be given in exchange for receiving a qualifying contribution.

¹ As part of the certification process the SOS will utilize the information provided by the voter to confirm the voter is registered and is eligible to vote for the applicant candidate. Upon verification of voter eligibility the SOS will assign credit to the applicant candidate towards the total required number of qualifying contributions that must be collected.

What is the minimum number of qualifying contributions needed?

The number of qualifying contributions that an applicant candidate must obtain is based on a percentage of registered voters within the applicable districts².

- For all statewide judicial elective offices, the number of qualifying contributions is equal to one-tenth of one percent of the number of voters in the state.
- For the office of PRC, the number of qualifying contributions is equal to one-tenth of one percent of the number of voters in the district for which the candidate is running.

It is strongly recommended that applicant candidates gather more qualifying contributions than are required to account for any contributions that are inadvertently collected from an ineligible voter. Once submitted to the SOS, qualifying contributions are nonrefundable to candidates or to contributors.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR PUBLIC FINANCING IN 2018 ELECTION CYCLE:

<u>Covered Office</u>	<u>Number of Registered Voters</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Qualifying Contributions</u>	<u>Total Minimum Amount of Qualifying Contributions</u>
PRC District #2	222,220	222	\$1,110
PRC District #4	215,319	215	\$1,075
PRC District #5	221,045	221	\$1,105
All Statewide Judicial Offices	1,204,371	1,204	\$6,020

How do I submit my qualifying contributions to the SOS?

Throughout the qualifying period, the SOS will accept qualifying contributions from applicant candidates by **appointment**. Appointments should be scheduled directly with SOS Ethics Staff by phone at (505) 827-3600 or by email at sos.ethics@state.nm.us. Multiple appointments will be allowed and may be scheduled at the discretion of the applicant candidate's committee. The SOS recommends that appointments be scheduled when a reasonable amount of qualifying contributions have been collected. SOS staff are available to assist with making this determination if needed. At each appointment, the SOS will validate that the monies submitted match the amount of receipts received.

Applicant candidates and/or their representatives shall submit their qualifying contributions during their scheduled appointment using the forms prescribed by the SOS, which are available on the SOS's website. They must submit the [qualifying contribution receipts](#), monetary

² Calculations are based upon registration data maintained by the SOS as of July 31, 2017.

contributions, the [list of contributors](#) and the [candidate acknowledgement](#). All forms must be complete and organized in a manner that will allow SOS staff to easily verify the amount of funds and corresponding receipts. (*NOTE: Please do not staple cash, checks, or money orders to the qualifying contribution receipt*).

Monetary contributions will be accepted in the form of cash, or a check or money order payable to the Public Election Fund. The list of contributors must include the name and address of the contributor and must be typed or printed legibly. Additionally, prior to submitting qualifying contributions and their corresponding receipt, a candidate and/or their representative should ensure that the contributor and individual that collected the contribution have signed the receipt. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

Periodic submission of qualifying contributions is not required, but it may be beneficial to do so. The SOS will begin the verification process of the qualifying contributions as soon as they are received and will provide an update as to the candidate's progress in meeting the required number of qualifying contributions. Once an applicant candidate has raised a sufficient number of qualifying contributions, they should schedule a final application appointment with the SOS. The deadline to schedule a final appointment and apply for public funds is the last day of the qualifying period, which is March 20, 2018, for major party candidates, and June 28, 2018 for minor party and Independent candidates.

What special instructions should statewide judicial candidates consider when collecting contributions?

The Judicial Code of Conduct was amended on November 1, 2015. Among the amendments, it made clear that judicial applicant candidates may not personally solicit or accept seed money or qualifying contributions collected for the purpose of obtaining public financing.

Accordingly, the SOS has aligned its administrative process with the judicial requirements. The qualifying contribution receipt requires the, "qualifying contribution collector" instead of "candidate" at the bottom of the form. Instead of having the candidate sign the receipt, placing them at risk of violating the Code, the individual collecting the qualifying contribution will sign the receipt.

At the time of application, and in order to be certified under the VAA, the candidate will turn in the required qualifying contributions list of contributors, along with the candidate acknowledgement, signed by the candidate. In completing the acknowledgment form the applicant candidate is confirming that contributions were collected with their knowledge and in a manner compliant with the VAA.

How much money will a certified candidate receive if they qualify for public financing of their campaign?

The amount that is distributed to a certified candidate is based upon the number of registered voters that are eligible to vote for the candidate. More specifically, primary election calculations

are based on the number of registered voters in the candidate's respective party and district³. Additionally, the VAA provides that candidates who are unopposed will receive a reduced distribution.

If the Fund does not have a sufficient balance to accommodate the disbursements for a given elections cycle, the amounts that should be disbursed to individual candidates will be reduced by an equal percentage.

PRC: The primary election distribution amount is equal to twenty-five cents (\$.25) for each voter of the candidate's party in the district of the office for which the candidate is running.

Statewide judicial offices: The primary election distribution amount is equal to fifteen cents (\$.15) for each voter of the candidate's party in the state.

When determining the fund distribution for the general election a candidate's party is not a factor and all voters in the applicable district are counted.

2018 Primary Election – Fund Distribution

Contested election:

Democratic Party

<u>Office</u>	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
PRC District #2	79,932	\$19,983
PRC District #4	108,506	\$27,127
PRC District #5	98,484	\$24,621
Statewide Judicial Office	557,968	\$83,695

Republican Party

<u>Office</u>	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
PRC District #2	95,112	\$23,778
PRC District #4	55,003	\$13,751
PRC District #5	69,212	\$17,303
Statewide Judicial Office	370,517	\$55,578

Uncontested election⁴:

Democratic Party

<u>Office</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
PRC District #2	\$9,992
PRC District #4	\$13,564
PRC District #5	\$12,311
Statewide Judicial Office	\$41,848

Republican Party

<u>Office</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
PRC District #2	\$11,889
PRC District #4	\$6,876
PRC District #5	\$8,652
Statewide Judicial Office	\$27,789

³ Calculations are based upon registration data maintained by the SOS as of July 31, 2017.

⁴ The distribution for an uncontested election is equal to fifty (50) percent of the amount that is calculated for a contested election.

2018 General Election – Fund Distribution

Contested General Election

<u>Office</u>	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
PRC District #2	222,220	\$55,555
PRC District #4	215,319	\$53,830
PRC District #5	221,045	\$55,261
Statewide Judicial Office	1,204,371	\$180,656

Uncontested General Election

<u>Office</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
PRC District #2	\$27,778
PRC District #4	\$26,915
PRC District #5	\$27,631
Statewide Judicial Office	\$90,328

Please Note: If a general election race that is initially uncontested later becomes contested because of the qualification of an independent or minor party candidate who appears on the ballot for that race, an additional amount of money shall be distributed to the certified candidate to make the candidate's total distribution amount equal to the amount distributed in a contested election as set forth above.

How is an applicant candidate certified?

Upon receipt of an application and final submission of qualifying contributions by the applicant candidate, the SOS shall determine whether the applicant candidate has met all the requirements for certification pursuant to the VAA, *please see* Section 1-19A-6 NMSA 1978.

To be certified, candidates must be a qualified candidate to run in an election as specified by the Election Code. Additional information related to candidacy requirements and qualification is available on the SOS's website: [Candidacy Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The SOS will verify that the required number of qualifying contributions has been submitted, and will verify that each qualifying contribution was made by a qualified voter. The verification is completed utilizing the statewide voter registration system. The verification process includes confirmation of registration within the applicable district.

The SOS will review submitted documentation and reports to ensure that the seed money contribution and expenditure restrictions have been complied with. All required forms and reports must be submitted by last day of the qualifying period. VAA forms may be found on the SOS's website [2018 Voter Action Act Forms and Information](#).

In accordance with the VAA, the SOS must make a qualification determination within ten (10) days of an applicant candidate's final appointment. The applicant candidate will receive a written notification confirming whether he or she has qualified for public campaign funds. Upon certification the SOS will provide the fund disbursement within seven (7) days.

Please Note: A certified candidate who accepts public campaign funds for the primary election is required to comply with all the requirements of the VAA for the remainder of the election cycle, even if he or she ultimately decides not to accept public funds.

What if an applicant candidate is not certified by the Secretary of State?

The procedure for challenging a certification decision by the SOS is outlined in Section 1-19A-16 NMSA 1978 as follows.

If a person disagrees with the certification decision made by the SOS, they may file an appeal to the SOS within three (3) days of the decision. The appeal shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for appeal.

Within five (5) days after an appeal is properly made, and after due notice is given to the parties in dispute, the SOS shall hold a hearing whereby:

- The appellant has the burden of providing evidence to demonstrate that the decision of the SOS was improper; and,
- The SOS shall rule on the appeal within three (3) days after the completion of the hearing.

At this point, the parties in dispute may appeal the decision of the SOS by commencing an action in district court. Certified candidates whose certification is revoked on appeal shall return to the SOS any unspent money distributed from the fund.

If the SOS or a court finds that an appeal was made frivolously or to result in delay or hardship, the SOS or court may sanction the moving party by requiring the party to pay costs of the administrative hearing, the court hearing, and the opposing parties.

Can a candidate's political party contribute to their campaign?

Certified candidates may accept limited contributions from a political party. The VAA indicates that the aggregate amount of contributions from all political party committees combined cannot exceed the equivalent of ten (10) percent of the candidate's public fund disbursement per election cycle. Please see the maximum party contribution limit in the following charts.

Political Party Contribution Limits –Primary Election

Contested election:

<u>Democratic Party</u>			<u>Republican Party</u>		
<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>
PRC District #2	\$19,983	\$1,998	PRC District #2	\$23,778	\$2,378
PRC District #4	\$27,127	\$2,712	PRC District #4	\$13,751	\$1,375
PRC District #5	\$24,621	\$2,462	PRC District #5	\$17,303	\$1,730
Statewide			Statewide		
Judicial Office	\$83,695	\$8,369	Judicial Office	\$55,578	\$5,578

Uncontested election:

<u>Democratic Party</u>			<u>Republican Party</u>		
<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>
PRC District #2	\$9,992	\$999	PRC District #2	\$11,889	\$1,189
PRC District #4	\$13,564	\$1,356	PRC District #4	\$6,876	\$688
PRC District #5	\$12,311	\$1,231	PRC District #5	\$8,652	\$865
Statewide			Statewide		
Judicial Office	\$41,848	\$4,185	Judicial Office	\$27,789	\$2,779

Political Party Contribution Limits – General Election

Contested election:

<u>Democratic Party</u>			<u>Republican Party</u>		
<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>
PRC District #2	\$55,555	\$5,556	PRC District #2	\$55,555	\$5,556
PRC District #4	\$53,830	\$5,383	PRC District #4	\$53,830	\$5,383
PRC District #5	\$55,261	\$5,526	PRC District #5	\$55,261	\$5,526
Statewide			Statewide		
Judicial Office	\$180,656	\$18,066	Judicial Office	\$180,656	\$18,066

Uncontested election:

<u>Democratic Party</u>			<u>Republican Party</u>		
<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Fund Distribution</u>	<u>Maximum Contribution from Party</u>
PRC District #2	\$27,778	\$2,778	PRC District #2	\$27,778	\$2,778
PRC District #4	\$26,915	\$2,692	PRC District #4	\$26,915	\$2,692
PRC District #5	\$27,631	\$2,763	PRC District #5	\$27,631	\$2,763
Statewide			Statewide		
Judicial Office	\$90,328	\$9,033	Judicial Office	\$90,328	\$9,033

What can public funds be spent on?

All money distributed to a certified candidate from either the Fund or a political party shall be used for purposes related to that candidate's campaign in the election cycle in which the money was distributed. A certified candidate shall limit the total campaign expenditures and debts to the amount of money distributed from the fund. Certified candidates must comply with the requirements and restrictions outlined in the Campaign Reporting Act, *please see* Section 1-19-29.1 NMSA 1978.

What if a candidate withdraws their candidacy for election?

If a candidate is certified under the VAA and decides to withdraw from the election he or she must return any unspent or unencumbered public funds that were distributed. The funds must be submitted to the SOS as soon as possible and no later than ten (10) working days from the date of their withdrawal.

What if a candidate has leftover funds?

A certified candidate shall return any unspent or unencumbered public funds within thirty (30) days of the election to the SOS for deposit into the Fund.

Therefore, any funds distributed for the Primary Election and not spent by June 5, 2018, must be returned to the SOS on or before, July 5, 2018. Additionally for certified candidates participating in the General Election, any funds not spent by November 6, 2018, must be returned to the SOS by December 6, 2018.

What reports are required?

Applicant candidates shall file a report listing seed money contributions and expenditures along with their application for certification during their final appointment. This report must be filed on a hard copy [seed money report form](#) prescribed by the SOS. In addition, the seed money transaction will be included in their campaign finance report required by the Campaign Reporting Act on April 9, 2018.

Certified candidates shall comply with all reporting requirements specified in the Campaign Reporting Act. They will file all required reports electronically within the [Campaign Finance Information System \(CFIS\)](#). They must submit the [Candidate Information for Campaign Reporting Form](#) to obtain a user name and password to access CFIS. A 2018 campaign finance reporting schedule has been included as Appendix B to this Guide for reference.

What are matching funds?

The VAA provides for certified candidates to receive an additional disbursement from the Fund, provided they have an opponent who is not publicly financed and has raised more campaign funds than what the certified candidate has been disbursed. *Matching funds* are determined by comparing the campaign finance reports of certified candidates to their non-certified opponents.

In an effort to make this comparison, the VAA requires non-certified candidates to file a campaign report ten (10) days prior to each election.

However, in 2012 the matching funds provision was found unconstitutional by the United States District Court. The court found that providing matching funds to publicly financed candidates violated the free speech rights of non-publicly financed candidates and their supporters without serving a compelling state interest. **Therefore, matching funds will not be issued to certified candidates during the 2018 Election Cycle.**

Additionally, non-certified candidates will not be required to file an additional campaign report ten (10) days prior to Election Day as required pursuant to Section 1-19A-9(E) of the VAA.

What are the penalties for a violation of the VAA?

In addition to other penalties that may be applicable, a person who violates a provision of the VAA is subject to a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation. In addition to a fine, a certified candidate found in violation of that act may be required to return to the fund all amounts distributed to the candidate from the fund. If the SOS makes a determination that a violation of that act has occurred, the SOS shall impose a fine or transmit the finding to the attorney general for prosecution. In determining whether a certified candidate is in violation of the expenditure limits of the VAA, the SOS may consider as a mitigating factor any circumstances out of the candidate's control.

A person who willfully or knowingly violates the provisions of the VAA, the rules of the SOS or knowingly makes a false statement in a report required by that act is guilty of a fourth degree felony and, if he is a certified candidate, shall return to the fund all money distributed to that candidate.

Appendix A

2018 Voter Action Act – Important Deadlines

Thursday, August 3, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day major party candidates may begin collecting seed money and/or file a Declaration of Intent.
Monday, October 2, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of the VAA qualifying period for major party candidates, and when they may begin collecting qualifying contributions after submission of a Declaration of Intent to the SOS. • First day major party candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions (for all offices).
Sunday, December 3, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day independent and minor party candidates may begin collecting seed money and/or file a Declaration of Intent.
Thursday, February 1, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of the VAA qualifying period for independent and minor party candidates and who may begin collecting qualifying contributions after submission of a Declaration of Intent to the SOS. • First day independent and minor party candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions.
Tuesday, February 6, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing day for major party statewide judicial offices.
Thursday, March 1, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day for independent and minor party candidates to circulate nominating petitions.
Tuesday, March 13, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing day for major party PRC candidates.
Tuesday, March 20, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for major party candidates to submit a VAA application.
Tuesday, June 5, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Election Day
Thursday, June 28, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing day for independent and minor party candidates. • Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit a VAA application.
Thursday, July 5, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to return any unspent Primary Election VAA funds to the SOS.
Tuesday, November 6, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Election Day
Thursday, December 6, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to return any unspent General Election VAA funds to the SOS

2018 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING SCHEDULE

For Candidates, Campaign Committees & Political Action Committees

Primary Election Date: June 5, 2018

PRIMARY ELECTION REPORTS

FIRST PRIMARY
REPORT

Due date:
April 9, 2018

Reporting Period
October 3, 2017-
April 2, 2018

SECOND PRIMARY
REPORT

Due date:
May 14, 2018

Reporting Period
April 3, 2018-
May 7, 2018

THIRD PRIMARY
REPORT

Due date:
May 31, 2018

Reporting Period
May 8, 2018-
May 29, 2018

FOURTH PRIMARY
REPORT

Due date:
July 5, 2018

Reporting Period
May 30, 2018-
June 30, 2018

General Election Date: November 6, 2018

GENERAL ELECTION REPORTS

FIRST GENERAL
REPORT

Due date:
September 10, 2018

Reporting Period
July 1, 2018-
September 3, 2018

SECOND GENERAL
REPORT

Due date:
October 8, 2018

Reporting Period
September 4, 2018-
October 1, 2018

THIRD GENERAL
REPORT

Due date:
November 1, 2018

Reporting Period
October 2, 2018-
October 30, 2018

FOURTH GENERAL
REPORT

Due date:
December 6, 2018

Reporting Period
October 30, 2018-
December 1, 2018