



Campaign Finance Disclosure Statements

FOR CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO THE RETIREMENT BOARD

As a candidate for the SERS Board, you may be required to file forms with the Ohio Ethics Commission and Ohio Secretary of State's office. Campaign finance disclosure statements are financial statements itemizing **contributions, in-kind contributions, expenditures, and independent expenditures** made during a candidacy for election for a position on the Retirement Board.

REQUIREMENTS

Any of the following must file these statements:

- Each candidate running for election who receives or spends at least \$1,000 during the campaign
- Each candidate's campaign committee that receives or spends at least \$1,000 during the campaign
- Any individual, partnership, or other entity that makes an independent expenditure in any amount on behalf of a candidate



Two completed sets of statements must be filed, even if there is only one candidate running for election, and there is no election. Every expenditure by a candidate or their campaign committee in excess of \$25 must have a receipted bill or cancelled check showing the purpose of the expenditure, and be filed with the statement.

DUE DATES

Statements are filed with the Ohio Secretary of State. The first set of statements is due 12 days before the election date. The second set is due no earlier than eight days but no later than 38 days after the election. Fines for failure to file and accurately report campaign expenditure disclosure statements may be imposed not to exceed \$100 per day of violation.

FALSE STATEMENTS

No person during the nominating process or election can make or distribute campaign materials with false statements. A person who violates this prohibition can be imprisoned up to six months and/or fined up to \$5,000.

VIOLATIONS

Violations are brought before the Ohio Elections Commission. The Secretary of State, or any person acting on personal knowledge and subject to perjury, may file a complaint with the Commission. This Commission holds hearings on the complaint with the power to subpoena records and witnesses; the hearing is public and the accused person may be represented by counsel, present evidence, and examine witnesses.

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION FORMS AND RESOURCES

If you are elected or appointed to the SERS retirement board, you will need to file annual Financial Disclosure Statements with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

The Ohio Ethics Commission requires that a Financial Disclosure Statement be filed by May 15 of each year for the previous calendar year. A statement also must be filed within 90 days of being elected or appointed to a new term as a Board member for the year prior to the Board service. There is a \$40 filing fee, which is paid by SERS. (The statement must be filed within 15 days when elected or appointed to an unexpired term.)

The statement contains certain personal financial information and is a public record with the OEC.

As stated by the OEC, the purpose of the financial disclosure requirement is to remind a public official of financial interests that may conflict with their duties, and to assist citizens and the OEC in monitoring the areas of potential conflict of interest in public officials.

The Financial Disclosure Statement can be filed [online](#), or [mailed](#) to the OEC. Go to <http://www.ethics.ohio.gov> for more information.

Resources:

[Ethics is Everybody's Business booklet](#)

[Doing Business with Retirement Systems in Ohio fact sheet](#)

[Financial Disclosure Fact Sheet](#)

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE FORMS

Forms that may need to be filed with the Ohio Secretary of State include:

[Ohio Campaign Finance Report \(Form 30-A\)](#)

[In-Kind Contributions Received \(Form 31-J-1\)](#)

[Statement of Contributions Received \(Form 31-A\)](#)

[Statement of Expenditures \(31-B\)](#)

[Statement of Loans Received \(Form 31-C\)](#)

[Statement of Other Income \(Form 31-A-2\)](#)

[Statement of Outstanding Debts \(Form 31-N\)](#)



Contact the Secretary of State's Office at (614) 466-2655, or visit <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/campaign-finance/filing-forms>, for more information regarding these forms.