



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

To: Commission
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: January 22, 2025
Re: Working Group on Disclosure Requirements

At the Commission's December 18, 2024 meeting, the Commission received a suggestion from an advocate that the Legislature or the Commission should put together a working group or stakeholder group to discuss the deadlines for accelerated reports (see charts below) to minimize confusion, unnecessary bureaucracy, and avoid redundancy. Although the discussion was a little ambiguous, it seemed like a second issue was raised: is it necessary to require Maine Clean Election Act candidates to have a separate treasurer who files reports? The Commission suggested scheduling this for further discussion at a future meeting.

24-Hour Reports - transactions above thresholds during the last 13 days before an election

	Receiving a contribution	Making an expenditure or incurring an unpaid debt	Deadline
PACs and BQCs	\$5,000 or more	\$1,000 or more	Within 24 hours
Party committees	\$5,000 or more	\$1,000 or more	Within 24 hours
Candidates	\$1,000 or more	\$1,000 or more	Within 24 hours

Independent Expenditure Reports - costs of paid communications to voters*

Making an expenditure or incurring an unpaid debt > \$250 per candidate	Deadline
Through 61 st day before election	60 th day before election
60 th - 14 th day before election	Within 2 calendar days
13 th - 1 st day before election	Within 1 calendar day

*To avoid redundancy the Commission adopted a rule that if a PAC or party committee files an independent expenditure report for a transaction, no 24-Hour Report is required for that same transaction.