



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

To: Interested Parties  
 From: Commission Staff  
 Date: April 3, 2026  
 Re: Enacted Legislation – Effective April 3, 2026

The Legislature passed LD 2000, *An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws*, which was written as an emergency bill and took effect when Governor Mills signed it on today. This memo is a summary of the legislation which is effective under ([2026 P.L. 600](#)).

### MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT (MCEA) CANDIDATES

**Extended Qualifying Period for Certain Candidates (2026 Election Cycle Only):** Legislative candidates seeking MCEA funding who registered with the Commission on or since January 16, 2026, have until 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026 to request certification. All other candidates must adhere to the original April 21<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### 24-HOUR REPORTS

**Higher Thresholds and Extended Deadline:** When a candidate or committee receives a large contribution or makes a large expenditure during the 13 days before an election, they have been required to file a 24-Hour Report with the Commission. The new law increased the amounts of the transactions that require a 24-Hour Report, as shown in the chart below. Also, candidates will now have one extra day to file the reports.

	Prior Threshold	New Threshold
<b>PACs/BQCs (must report within 24 hours)</b>		
Receiving a contribution	\$5,000 or more	\$10,000 or more
Making an expenditure or incurring a debt	\$1,000 or more	\$2,500 or more
<b>Party Committees (must report within 24 hours)</b>		
Receiving a contribution	\$5,000 or more	\$10,000 or more
Making an expenditure or incurring a debt	\$1,000 or more	\$2,500 or more
<b>Candidates (must report within 48 hours)</b>		
Receiving a contribution (due to contribution limits, contributions above the new thresholds may be made only by the candidate or their spouse/domestic partner)	\$1,000 or more	\$10,000 Governor \$5,000 Senate \$2,500 County \$1,500 House \$1,500 Municipal
Making an expenditure or incurring an unpaid debt	\$1,000 or more	\$10,000 Governor \$5,000 Senate \$2,500 County \$1,500 House \$1,500 Municipal

## **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES (IE)**

**Higher Threshold:** The previous threshold for a PAC or party committee to file an IE report for communications was spending more than \$250 per candidate. It is now spending more than \$1,000 per candidate. The new law did not change the filing schedule for IE reports.

## **PARTY COMMITTEES**

**Report Content Clarification:** This section clarifies current law by specifying that a party committee may report any expenditures associated with ballot question measures on their regular campaign finance reports and does not have to register as a separate ballot question committee.