

Title 5 M.R.S.
Chapter 1: State Officers and Employees Generally

Subchapter I
General Provisions

§ 19. Financial disclosure by executive employees

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. “Appointed executive employee” means a compensated member of the classified or unclassified service employed by the Executive Branch, who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature, or who serves in a major policy-influencing position, except assistant attorneys general, as set forth in chapter 71.

A-1. “Associated organization” means any organization in which an executive employee or a member of the executive employee’s immediate family is a managerial employee, director, officer or trustee or owns or controls, directly or indirectly, and severally or in the aggregate, at least 10% of the outstanding equity.

B. “Constitutional officers” means the Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and Treasurer of State.

B-1. [Repealed]

C. “Elected executive employee” means the constitutional officers and the State Auditor.

D. “Executive employee” means an appointed executive employee or an elected executive employee.

E. “Gift” means anything of value, including forgiveness of an obligation or debt, given to a person without that person providing equal or greater consideration to the giver. “Gift” does not include:

(1) Gifts received from a single source during the reporting period with an aggregate value of \$300 or less;

(2) A bequest or other form of inheritance; and

(3) A gift received from a relative or from an individual on the basis of a personal friendship as long as that individual is not a registered lobbyist or lobbyist associate under Title 3, section 313, unless the employee has reason to believe that the gift was provided because of the employee’s official position and not because of a personal friendship.

F. “Honorarium” means a payment of money or anything with a monetary resale value to a person for an appearance or a speech by the person. “Honorarium” does not include reimbursement for actual and necessary travel expenses for an appearance or speech. “Honorarium” does not include a payment for an appearance or a speech that is unrelated to the person’s official capacity or duties.

G. “Immediate family” means a person’s spouse, domestic partner or dependent children.

H. “Income” means economic gain to a person from any source, including, but not limited to, compensation for services, including fees, commissions and payments in-kind; gross income derived from business; gross income derived from dealings in property, rents and royalties; gross income from investments including interest, capital gains and dividends; annuities; income from life insurance and endowment contracts; pensions; income from discharge of indebtedness; distributions from a partnership or limited liability company; gross income from an interest in an estate or trust; prizes; and grants, but does not include gifts or honoraria. Income received in-kind includes, but is not limited to, the transfer of property and options to buy or lease and stock certificates. “Income” does not include alimony and separate maintenance payments, child support payments or campaign contributions accepted for state or federal office or funds or other property held in trust for another, including but not limited to fees paid in advance or money to be spent on behalf of a client for payment of a licensing or filing fee.

H-1. “Managerial employee” means an employee of an organization whose position requires substantial control over the organization’s decision making, business operations, financial management or contracting and procurement activities. For the purposes of this subsection, financial management does not include tasks that are considered clerical in nature.

I. “Relative” means an individual who is related to the executive employee or the executive employee’s spouse as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother or half sister, and shall be deemed to include the fiancé or fiancée of the executive employee.

I-1. “Reportable liabilities” means any unsecured loan, except a loan made as a campaign contribution recorded as required by law, of \$3,000 or more received from a person not a relative. Reportable liabilities do not include:

- (1) A credit card liability;
- (2) An educational loan made or guaranteed by a governmental entity, educational institution or nonprofit organization; or

(3) A loan made from a state or federally regulated financial institution for business purposes.

J. “Self-employed” means that the person qualifies as an independent contractor under Title 39-A, section 102, subsection 13-A.

2. Content of Statement. Each executive employee shall annually file with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices a statement identifying the sources of income received, positions held and reportable liabilities incurred during the preceding calendar year by the executive employee or members of the executive employee’s immediate family. The name and, where applicable, the job title of the individual earning or receiving the income must be disclosed, unless otherwise noted. Each source of income must be identified by name, address and principal type of economic or business activity. If disclosure of this type is prohibited by statute, rule or an established code of professional ethics, it is sufficient for the executive employee to specify the principal type of economic or business activity from which the income is derived.

The statement must identify:

A. If the executive employee is an employee of another person, firm, corporation, association or organization that has provided the executive employee with compensation of \$2,000 or more, the name and address of the employer;

B. If the executive employee is self-employed, the name and address of the executive employee’s business and each source of income derived from self-employment that represents more than 10% of the employee’s gross income from self-employment or \$2,000, whichever is greater;

C. to G. [Repealed]

H. The name, address and principal economic or business activity of any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business in which the executive employee or members of the employee’s immediate family own or control, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the outstanding equity, whether individually or in the aggregate, that has received revenue of \$2,000 or more;

I. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more the executive employee derived from providing services as an attorney, the major areas of law practiced by the executive employee and, if associated with a law firm, the major areas of practice of the firm;

J. Each additional source of income of \$2,000 or more received by the executive employee and a description of the nature of the income, such as rental income, dividend income and capital gains;

K. The specific source of each gift received by the executive employee;

L. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more received by any member of the immediate family of the executive employee, except that the employee is not required to identify the names of dependent children. If the member of the executive employee's immediate family received income of \$2,000 or more in compensation, the executive employee shall identify the source of the compensation, the type of the economic activity and the title of the position held by the immediate family member;

M. Each source of honoraria of \$2,000 or more that the executive employee accepted;

N. Each executive branch agency before which the executive employee or a member of the employee's immediate family has represented or assisted others for compensation;

O. Each state governmental agency, board or commission to which the executive employee, a member of the employee's immediate family or an associated organization has sold, rented or leased goods or services with a value of \$10,000 or more during the preceding calendar year and a description of the goods or services sold, rented or leased;

P. Each party as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 28, including a party committee, and each organization that is required under Title 21-A, chapter 13 to register with the commission as a political action committee or ballot question committee for which the executive employee or a member of the executive employee's immediate family is a treasurer, principal officer or principal fundraiser or decision maker of the organization;

Q. Any offices, trusteeships, directorships or positions of any nature, whether compensated or uncompensated, held by the executive employee or a member of the employee's immediate family with any for-profit or nonprofit firm, corporation, association, limited liability company, partnership or business. For the purposes of this paragraph, service as a clerk of a corporation or as a registered agent authorized to receive service of any process, notice or other demand for a business entity is not considered a position with the corporation or business entity; and

R. All reportable liabilities incurred by the executive employee or members of the employee's immediate family during the reporting period.

2-A. [Repealed]

3. Time for Filing.

A. An elected executive employee shall file an initial report within 30 days of his election. An appointed executive employee shall file an initial report prior to confirmation by the Legislature.

B. Each executive employee shall file the annual report by 5:00 p.m. on April 15th of each year, unless that employee has filed an initial or updating report during the preceding 30 days or has already filed a report for the preceding calendar year pursuant to paragraph A.

C. An executive employee shall file an updated statement concerning the current calendar year if the income, reportable liabilities or positions of the executive employee or an immediate family member, excluding dependent children, substantially change from those disclosed in the employee's most recent statement. Substantial changes include, but are not limited to, a new employer that has paid the executive employee or immediate family member, excluding dependent children, \$2,000 or more during the current year, another source that has provided the employee with income that totals \$2,000 or more during the current year or the acceptance of a new position with a for-profit or nonprofit firm that is reportable under subsection 2, paragraph Q. The executive employee shall file the updated statement within 30 days of the substantial change in income, reportable liabilities or positions.

3-A. Filing upon Termination of Employment. An executive employee whose employment has terminated shall file a statement of finances as described in subsection 2 within 45 days after the termination of employment relating to the final calendar year of the employment.

4. Penalties. Penalties for violation of this section are as follows.

A. Failing to file a statement within 15 days of having been notified by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices is a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged. A statement is not considered filed unless it substantially conforms to the requirements of Title 1, chapter 25, subchapter 2 and is properly signed. The commission shall determine whether a statement substantially conforms to such requirements.

B. The intentional filing of a false statement is a Class E crime. If the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices concludes that it appears that an executive employee has willfully filed a false statement, it shall refer its findings of fact to the Attorney General.

5. Rules. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices may adopt or amend rules to specify the reportable categories or types and the procedures and forms for reporting and to administer this section.

6. Public Record. Statements filed under this section are public records. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall provide a means for executive employees to file statements in an electronic format that must immediately place the statements on a publicly accessible website. Executive employees shall file statements required by this section using the electronic format prescribed by the

commission. If an executive employee can attest to an inability to access or use the electronic filing format, the commission may provide assistance to the employee to ensure proper and timely placement of the required statements on the publicly accessible website.

7. [Repealed]

Title 21-A M.R.S.
Chapter 1: General Provisions

Subchapter I
Definitions, Construction and Application
[Selected definitions and provisions]

§ 1. Definitions

As used in this Title, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

2. Any election. “Any election” means primary and general elections and referenda, whether regular or special.

3-A. Ballot question committee. “Ballot question committee” has the same meaning as in section 1052, subsection 2-A.

4. Business day. “Business day” means any day of the calendar year other than a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

5. Candidate. “Candidate” means any person who has filed a petition under either sections 335 and 336 or sections 354 and 355 and has qualified as a candidate by either procedure, or any person who has received contributions or made expenditures or has given consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with the intent of qualifying as a candidate.

8. Circulate. “Circulate” means the presenting of a petition to a voter with an accompanying request that the voter sign it.

11. County office. “County office” means the office of judge of probate, register of probate, county treasurer, register of deeds, sheriff, district attorney or county commissioner.

11-A. Declared write-in candidate. “Declared write-in candidate” means a write-in candidate who has filed a declaration to be a write-in candidate pursuant to section 722-A.

13-A. [Repealed]

15. Election year. “Election year” means the calendar year within which a particular election is held.

16. Electoral division. “Electoral division” means an area set off for election purposes. It may include the entire State.

17. Enroll. “Enroll” means to enlist as a member of a political party.

18. Federal office. “Federal office” means the office of the United States Senator or Representative to Congress.

19. General election. “General election” means the regular election of state and county officials occurring biennially in November.

20. Immediate family. “Immediate family” means a person’s spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sister, half-sister, brother, half-brother, stepparent, stepgrandparent, stepchild, stepgrandchild, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, guardian, former guardian, domestic partner, the half-brother or half-sister of a person’s spouse, or the spouse of a person’s half-brother or half-sister.

25. Municipal committee. “Municipal committee” means a city, town or ward committee of a political party.

26. Municipal officers. “Municipal officers” means the mayor and aldermen or councillors of a city, the selectmen or councillors of a town and the assessors of a plantation.

27. Municipality. “Municipality” means a city, town or plantation.

27-C. Elections determined by ranked-choice voting. “Elections determined by ranked-choice voting” means any of the following elections in which 3 or more candidates have qualified to be listed on the ballot for a particular office or at least 2 such candidates plus one or more declared write-in candidates have qualified for that particular office:

A. Primary elections for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative;

B. General and special elections for the offices of United States Senator and United States Representative to Congress;

C. [Repealed]

D. General elections for presidential electors; and

E. Primary elections for the office of President of the United States.

28. Party. “Party” means a political organization which has qualified to participate in a primary or general election under chapter 5.

29-A. Political action committee. “Political action committee” has the same meaning as in section 1052, subsection 5.

30. Political committee. “Political committee” means 2 or more persons associated for the purpose of promoting or defeating a candidate, party or principle.

32. Primary election. “Primary election” means the regular election for the election of nominees of a party for the general election.

35. Question. “Question” means any proposition submitted to the voters.

35-A. Ranked-choice voting. “Ranked-choice voting” means the method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the candidate with the most votes in the final round is elected.

36. Referendum. “Referendum” means an election for the determination of a question.

37. Register. “Register” means to enlist as a voter.

38. Registrar. “Registrar” means the registrar or deputy registrar of voters of a municipality.

39. Regular election. “Regular election” means an election or a referendum held at a regular time prescribed by statute.

40. Residence. “Residence” means that place where the person has established a fixed and principal home to which the person, whenever temporarily absent, intends to return.

40-B. Residence address. “Residence address” means the street and number or other designation indicating the physical location of a person’s residence.

41. Special election. “Special election” means an election other than a regular election.

42. State office. “State office” means the office of Governor, State Senator, Representative to the State Legislature or presidential elector.

45. Treasurer. “Treasurer” means a person appointed by a candidate or a political committee to accept or disburse money to promote or defeat a candidate, party or principle. A person who collects money to be transferred to the treasurer of a candidate or committee is not a treasurer.

45-A. Undeclared write-in candidate. “Undeclared write-in candidate” means a write-in candidate who has not filed a declaration pursuant to section 722-A.

46. Uncontested office. “Uncontested office” means an office where, as of the final date for filing primary nomination petitions, either:

A. Only members of one party have filed as candidates for nomination for that office; or

B. Only one unenrolled nominee has filed as a candidate for that office.

47. Voter. “Voter” means a person registered to vote.

51. Write-in candidate. “Write-in candidate” means a person whose name does not appear on the ballot under the office designation to which a voter may wish to elect the candidate.

§ 6. Date falling on holiday

When the date on which an act must be performed or an event must take place falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the act shall be performed or the event shall take place on the next following business day.

§ 7. Use of words

When used in this Title, the words “shall” and “must” are used in a mandatory sense to impose an obligation to act in the manner specified by the context. The word “may,” when used in this Title, is used in a permissive sense to grant authority or permission, but not to create duty, to act in the manner specified by the context. When used in this Title, the term “may not” indicates a lack of authority or permission to act or refrain from acting in the manner specified by the context.

Subchapter II Records and Documents

§ 23. Preservation and destruction of records

The preservation and destruction of records and other materials required by this Title are governed by the following provisions.

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9. Registration of treasurer. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall keep the registration of a treasurer under section 1013 in its office for 2 years.

10. Records and campaign finances. Each treasurer and each candidate shall keep the records required by section 1016 for 2 years following the election to which they pertain.

11. Campaign reports. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall keep the campaign reports or report data in its office for at least 8 years.

13. Miscellaneous. The official charged with the custody of any record not specifically provided for in this section shall keep it in that official's office for 2 years.

14. Destruction of records. After the records and other materials have been kept for the required period, they may be destroyed. Posted notices, sample ballots and instruction posters may be destroyed as soon as the election to which they pertain is past. Ballots must be destroyed using a method that makes the contents unreadable.

Subchapter III Violations and Penalties

§ 32. Violations and penalties

1. Class E crime. A person commits a Class E crime if that person:

- A. Knowingly violates a provision of this Title for which no penalty has been provided; or
- B. Knowingly displays or distributes political advertisements in or on state-owned or state-leased property.

This paragraph does not apply to acts on state highways or to displays on motor vehicles not owned by the State while temporarily parked in parking areas on land maintained by the State. This paragraph does not apply to acts in or on a state-owned or state-leased building for a period beginning 48 hours before and ending 48 hours after that building is used by a political party to conduct a political activity within the building.

2. Class D crime. A person commits a Class D crime if that person:

- A. Is a public official and knowingly fails or refuses to perform a duty required of that official under this Title.

3. Class C crime. A person commits a Class C crime if that person misuses a state government computer system. For purposes of this subsection, a person is guilty of misuse of a state government computer system if that person knowingly uses a computer system operated by a state department or agency, the Judicial Department or the Legislature:

- A. To prepare materials with the intent to expressly advocate, to those eligible to vote, for the election or defeat of any candidate for a federal office, a constitutional office or elective municipal, county or state office, including leadership positions in the State Senate and the State House of Representatives; or
- B. With the intent to solicit contributions reportable under chapter 13.

For purposes of this subsection, “computer system” has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 431 and “leadership positions” means the presiding officers of each House of the Legislature, party leaders, the Clerk of the House, the Assistant Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate and the Assistant Secretary of the Senate.

This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a public employer from deducting dues or other funds from an employee’s pay, as authorized by the employee and provided through a collective bargaining agreement, and remitting those funds to an account or fund owned by the employee’s collective bargaining agent, even if the funds might be used for political or legislative purposes.

§ 33. Prosecution of violations

The Attorney General shall designate a Deputy Attorney General or an Assistant Attorney General to investigate and prosecute alleged violations of the election laws. This section does not preclude a district attorney from investigating and prosecuting election law violations.

Title 30-A M.R.S.
Chapter 121: Meetings and Elections

Subchapter I
General Provisions

§ 2501. Applicability of provisions

Except as otherwise provided by this Title or by charter, the method of voting and the conduct of a municipal election are governed by Title 21-A.

1. Clerk to perform duties of Secretary of State. When Title 21-A applies to any municipal election, the municipal clerk shall perform the duties of the Secretary of State prescribed by Title 21-A.

2. Qualifications for voting. The qualifications for voting in a municipal election conducted under this Title are governed solely by Title 21-A, section 111.

3. Determining and counting write-in votes. A municipality may choose the method of determining and counting write-in votes according to this subsection. Once a municipality has voted to accept the option under this subsection, the option applies to all municipal elections until the municipal officers hold a public hearing and the legislative body of the municipality votes to rescind the option at least 90 days before the next election of candidates by secret ballot.

A. After the municipal officers hold a public hearing, at least 90 days prior to an election of candidates by secret ballot, the legislative body of a municipality may vote to be governed by the provisions of Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 2, paragraph C and Title 21-A, section 722-A. Votes for a write-in candidate are counted only if that candidate has filed a timely declaration of write-in candidacy with the municipal clerk in accordance with Title 21-A, section 722-A, except that votes for write-in candidates who have not filed a declaration of write-in candidacy must be counted if:

(1) The printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate for the office; or

(2) A properly nominated candidate for the office listed on the ballot withdraws from the race before or on election day.

B. In a municipality that has not voted under paragraph A to be governed by Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 2, paragraph C and Title 21-A, section 722-A, votes cast for write-in candidates must be counted if:

(1) The printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate for the office;

(2) A properly nominated candidate for the office listed on the ballot withdraws from the race before or on election day; or

(3) The number of write-in votes for an office as determined by a machine count or initial hand count exceeds the number of votes in that count for a candidate printed on the ballot.

Votes for write-in candidates may be counted even if none of the criteria listed in subparagraphs (1) to (3) are met in a municipality that has not voted to be governed by Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 2, paragraph C and Title 21-A, section 722-A.

Nothing in this subsection requires a municipal clerk to count or tally write-in votes for a fictitious person, a deceased person or a person from outside the municipality when residency is a qualification of office or who is otherwise not qualified to be a candidate for the office for which the person is a write-in candidate.

4. Ballot questions. Notwithstanding the provision of Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7 requiring sequential numbering of ballot questions, municipal officers may elect to list municipal initiative and referendum questions on the ballot using sequential capital letters of the alphabet instead of sequential numbers. All other provisions of Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7 apply.

§ 2502. Campaign reports in municipal elections

1. Reports by candidates. A candidate for municipal office of a town or city with a population of 15,000 or more is governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A, except that registrations and campaign finance reports must be filed with the municipal clerk instead of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before an election for office. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to those sections.

A. [Repealed]

2. Municipal referenda campaigns. Municipal referenda campaign finance reporting is governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter 4.

3. Public access to records. A town or city that receives registrations or reports pursuant to this section must keep them for 8 years.

Title 36 M.R.S.
Chapter 10: Tax Expenditure Review

§ 199-E. Elimination of certain tax expenditures

No later than 45 days after the effective date of this section the committee shall report out to the Legislature legislation to permanently eliminate corporate tax expenditures totaling \$6,000,000 per biennium, prioritizing for elimination low-performing, unaccountable tax expenditures with little or no demonstrated economic development benefit as determined by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability established in Title 3, section 991.

Chapter 831: Procedure and Administration

§ 5286. Contribution to Maine Clean Election Fund; voluntary checkoff

- 1. Designation.** Resident taxpayers may designate that \$3 of their taxes be deposited in the Maine Clean Election Fund in accordance with Title 21-A, section 1124.
- 2. Forms.** The State Tax Assessor shall provide on the first page of the income tax form a space for the filing individual to indicate whether that filer wishes to pay \$3, or \$6 if filing a joint return, from the General Fund of the State to finance the Maine Clean Election Fund.
- 3. Transfer of Funds.** The State Tax Assessor shall transfer funds from the General Fund in accordance with Title 21-A, section 1124.