



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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June 29, 2009

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia WA 98504-0002

Subject: Performance Report 2009 (June 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009)
Public Access to Campaign and Lobbyist Filings (RCW 42.17.463)

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Each year by July 1st, the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) publishes its performance measures in providing the public with access to campaign and lobbying reports, per RCW 42.17.463. The two measures provided in our performance report include disclosing the rate of posting reports to our website, and reporting the percentage of those electronically filing their reports and those filing by paper (e.g. filed by US Mail or hand delivery). Enclosed is our 2009 report.

Since 2001, the PDC has exceeded the statutory goals provided in RCW 42.17.463 by posting within minutes of receipt all reports, filed electronically or otherwise. During the performance period of June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009, information was posted to our website in the following manner:

- campaign and lobbying reports that were electronically filed were posted by the PDC within fifteen minutes of being electronically filed; and
- campaign and lobbying reports that were submitted on paper (filed by US Mail or hand delivery) were available on the Web site on the same day received in the agency's office, and often within the hour of receipt.

The attached charts give a synopsis of the public's instant access to campaign finance activity that occurred during the 2008 election. In summary, of the 738 total candidates seeking office in 2008, the majority (75%) filed their reports electronically, which increases the speed in which reports are posted to our website. Specifically, of the 25 executive candidates in the '08 election, 84% filed electronically; in legislative races, 93% of candidates filed electronically; and in the local races, 67% of candidates electronically filed

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
June 29, 2009
Page 2

their campaign finance activity. These high rates of e-filing candidates are in keeping with previous years' statistics and point to the successes we've had in providing outreach and training to campaigns.

With regard to the public's access to lobbying activity during the 2009 legislative session, of the 872 lobbyists and 1,107 lobbyist employers, 49% and 19%, respectively, filed their forms electronically disclosing \$21 million dollars in expenditures thus far this year. These e-filing rates by lobbyists represent an increase of 7% over last year, and an increase of 5% for lobbyist employers. In 2008, 42% of lobbyists and 14% of lobbyist employers electronically filed, reporting a total of \$59 million dollars in activity.

Increasing our e-filing rates, however, is only one solution in providing timely and meaningful public access to disclosure reports and data; another strong component to that goal is to enhance public access through evolving technology. Toward that end, PDC staff recently improved the functionality of our website's database searches, scanned report image searches, and compiled lobbying expense information by updating the software platform used to view information. The new search tools provides a uniform look to the applications whether one is researching data or scanned reports, and now provides intuitive links to examine campaign information from all declared candidates running in the jurisdiction, as well as allows for easier downloads to Microsoft Excel or Adobe Acrobat.

Further, as part of our ongoing efforts to use technology to optimize and automate agency processes, in this past year we have developed an on-line reporting mechanism for use by the 1,500 local jurisdictions to annually disclose their elected and/or appointed officials. This is a vast improvement over the traditional paper process in both staff cost and time needed to data-enter the information. In another example of migrating from a paper process to data transfer, in this past year PDC staff successfully partnered with the Secretary of State's staff to automate transfers of election results, registered voter counts, and new 2009 candidate information of those running for office from the 39 counties. These measures not only increase our administrative efficiencies, but also keep the public up-to-date with well-timed information.

Thank you for your interest in the Public Disclosure Commission's accomplishments and our continued goals for improving customer service and access to information.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rippie

Vicki Rippie
Executive Director

cc: Members, House State Government Operations & Accountability Committee
Members, Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee

Attachment

Performance Report 2009

Public Access to Campaign and Lobbyist Filings

in compliance with RCW 42.17.463

June 2009

Electronic Filers vs. Paper Filers

June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009

	Number of Filers	Percent that File Electronically	Percent that file on Paper
Statewide candidates	25	84%	16%
Legislative candidates	244	93%	7%
Local/Judicial candidates	469	67% ¹	33%
Continuing Political Committees	516	62%	38%
Lobbyists	872	49%	51%
Lobbyist Employers	1,107	19%	81%

¹ Percentage reflects candidates the using "Full Reporting" option. Small campaigns spending \$5,000 or less were not included in determining the percentage.

Performance Measures Summary—Campaign Finance

RCW 42.17.463(1) & (2)

June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009---Average No. of Days from Receipt to Internet

Electronic Filers

Reports are available on the Internet within minutes of filing.

Paper Filers

Images of candidate and political committee reports were available the same day as received in the Public Disclosure Commission office, typically within an hour or less.

Performance Measures Summary—Lobbying

RCW 42.17.463(3)

June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009---Average No. of Days from Receipt to Internet

Electronic Filers

Reports are available on the Internet within minutes of filing.

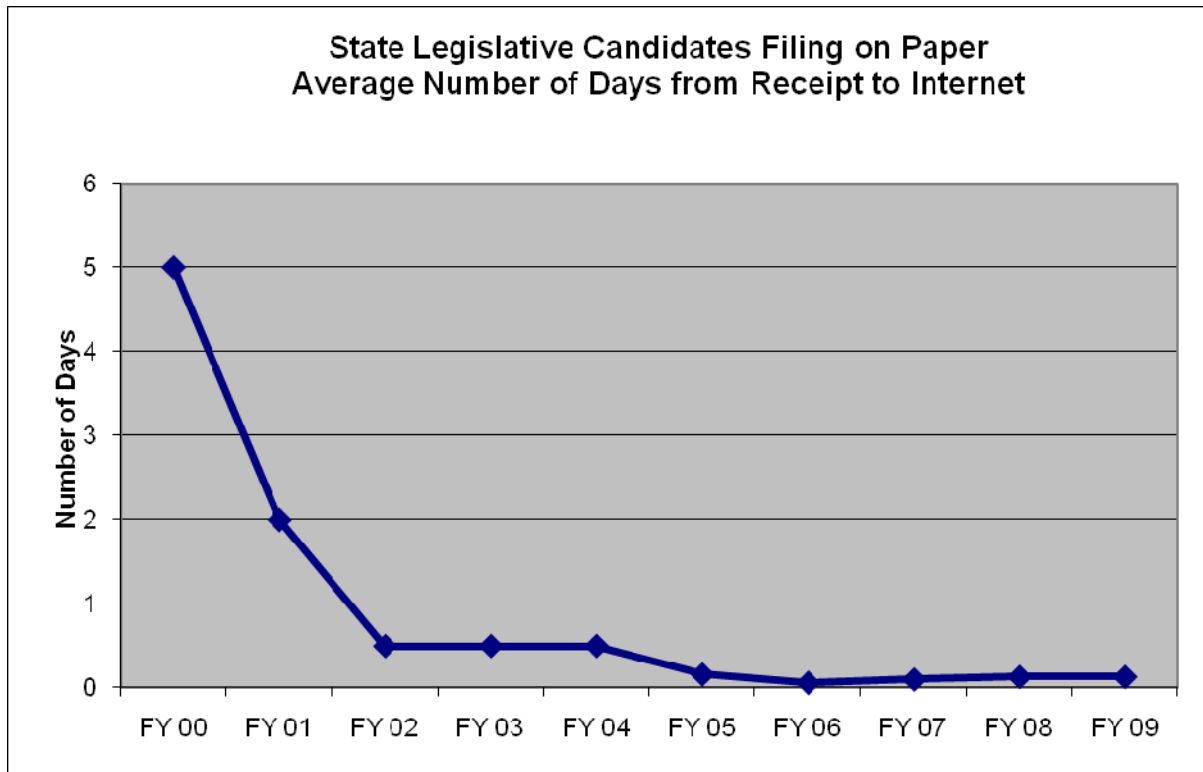
Paper Filers

Images of lobbying reports were available the same day as received in the Public Disclosure Commission office, typically within an hour or less.

Campaign Finance – Average Number of Days from Receipt to Internet

Paper Filers

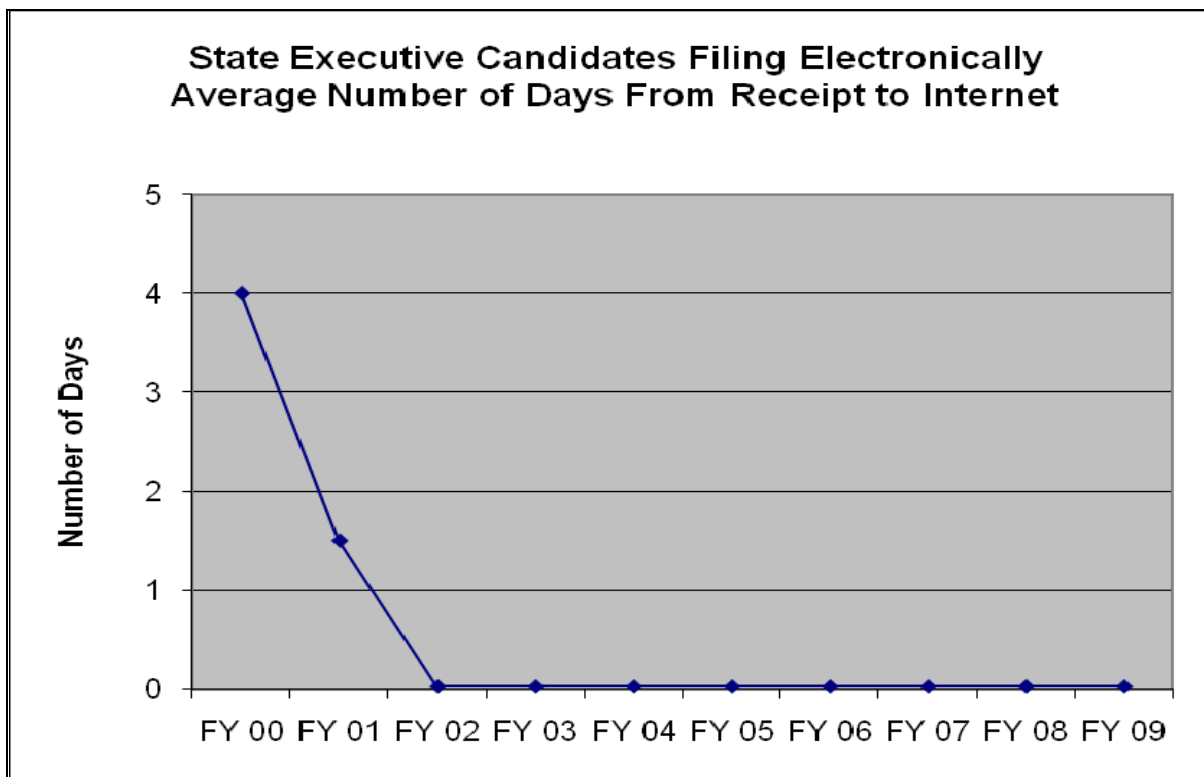
	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
State Executive Candidates	5 days	2 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	96 min.	53 min.	10 min.	30 min.	30 min.
Legislative Candidates	5 days	2 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	77 min.	30 min.	48 min.	63 min.	63 min.
Local/Judicial Candidates	6 days	3 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	77 min.	58 min.	30 min.	30 min.	48 min.
Continuing Political Committees	15 days	3.5 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	87 min.	30 min.	35 min.	39 min.	10 min.



Campaign Finance – Average Number of Days from Receipt to Internet

Electronic Filers

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
State Executive Candidates	4 days	1.5 days	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.
Legislative Candidates	4 days	1.7 days	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.
Continuing Political Committees	4 days	1.5 days	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.
Local/Judicial Candidates	4 days	1 day	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.	15 min.



Lobbying – Average Number of Days from Receipt to Internet

Electronic Filers

Please note that electronic filing for lobbyists and lobbyist employers was not available until January 1, 2002. Reports filed electronically by lobbyists and lobbyist employers are now accessible and on the Internet within an hour of filing.

Paper Filers

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
Lobbyist Registration (L1)	6 days	3 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	53 min.	44 min.	53 min.	53 min.	44 min.
Lobbyist Expenditures (L2)	14 days	6 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	53 min.	44 min.	53 min.	53 min.	44 min.
Employer Expenditures (L3)	6 days	3 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	53 min.	44 min.	53 min.	53 min.	44 min.
Special Contributions (L3c)	8 days	5 days	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	4 hrs.	53 min.	44 min.	53 min.	53 min.	44 min.

