

2007 – 2008 PDC Law and Rule Change Highlights

[underlining denotes change]

21-day pre-election C-4 reports. The report filed 21 days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of one business day before the date of the report. [Effective June 12, 2008. Chapter 43, Laws of 2008]

Personal financial affairs statements.

1. Persons who are in a state registered domestic partnership and who are required to file personal financial affairs statements must report the financial holdings of, and gifts received by, their domestic partners. [Effective June 12, 2008. Chapter 6, Laws of 2008.]
2. Trustees of Washington State's technical colleges must file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (PDC Form F-1). Newly appointed trustees must file within two weeks of appointment. [Effective July 22, 2007. Chapter 15, Laws of 2007.]

Mini reporting eligibility. A candidate seeking office in a jurisdiction of 1,000 or more registered voters may select the mini reporting option, provided the candidate does not expect to spend or receive contributions totaling more than \$5,000 and does not accept more than \$500 from any one contributor other than him or herself. A ballot measure committee may select the mini reporting option, provided the committee does not expect to spend or receive contributions totaling more than \$5,000 and does not accept more than \$500 from any one contributor. A continuing political committee may select the mini reporting option, provided the committee does not, in a calendar year, expect to spend or receive contributions totaling more than \$5,000 and does not accept more than \$500 from any one contributor. [Effective January 14, 2008. WAC 390-16-105.]

Adjustments to contribution limits in RCW 42.17.645 and the sections of law enacted by I-134:

<u>New Limit Amount</u>	<u>Recipients</u>
\$800 per election	legislative candidate; county office candidate in a jurisdiction with more than 200,000 reg. voters
\$1,600 per election	statewide executive candidate; judicial candidate; port commissioner candidate in a jurisdiction with more than 200,000 reg. voters
\$800 per calendar year	caucus political committee
\$4,000 per calendar year from contributor other than an individual	political party non-exempt account
80¢ per reg. voter per cycle from both state political party and caucus political committee	statewide executive and legislative candidates; county office and port commissioner candidates in a jurisdiction with more than 200,000 reg. voters
40¢ per reg. voter per cycle from county and legislative district committees, jointly	statewide executive and legislative candidates; county office and port commissioner candidates in a jurisdiction with more than 200,000 reg. voters

The candidate loan repayment limit was raised to \$4,700. [Effective February 28, 2008. WAC 390-05-400.]

Eligibility of superior court candidates to receive contributions. (NEW)

Only superior court candidates who appear on the primary election ballot or as write-in candidates in the primary election may receive contributions with respect to that primary.

Only superior court candidates who appear on the general election ballot or as write-in candidates in the general election may receive contributions with respect to that general election.

A superior court candidate who is issued a certificate of election before the primary election and whose name does not appear on either the primary or general election ballot may receive contributions pursuant to RCW 42.17.645 through the last day for withdrawal of declarations of candidacy or if there is a reopening of filing for the position and no other candidate files, the last day for reopening of filing. Contributions remaining in the account of a superior court candidate who is issued a certificate of election must be returned to contributors within two weeks of certification. Primary election contributions will be returned using the first-in, first out accounting method. Any general election contributions must be returned in full. [Effective November 7, 2007. WAC 390-17-303.]

Use of agency shop fees. A labor organization may not use agency shop fees paid by an individual who is not a member of the organization to make contributions or expenditures to influence an election or to operate a political committee, unless affirmatively authorized by the individual. A labor organization does not use agency shop fees when it uses its general treasury funds to make such contributions or expenditures if it has sufficient revenue from sources other than agency shop fees in its general treasury to fund such contributions or expenditures. [Effective May 11, 2007. Chapter 438, Laws of 2007.]

Modifying the dates of the election cycle. “Election cycle” means the period beginning on the first day of January after the date of the last previous general election for the office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after the next election for the office. In the case of a special election to fill a vacancy in an office, “election cycle” means the period beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st after the special election. [Effective July 22, 2007. Chapter 180, Laws of 2007.]

Shortening the statute of limitations for citizen actions. Any person who notifies the attorney general and the prosecuting attorney in the county in which a violation occurs in writing that there is reason to believe that some provision of RCW 42.17 is being or has been violated may himself bring in the name of the state any of the actions authorized by RCW 42.17. Any citizen action must be commenced within two years after the date when the alleged violation occurred. [Effective July 22, 2007. Chapter 455, Laws of 2007.]

Identifying persons authorized to make expenditures. (NEW)

1. Persons who perform solely ministerial functions for a candidate or committee are distinguished from persons who are agents of campaigns or authorized to make expenditures or decisions on behalf of a candidate or committee. [Effective January 1, 2008. Chapter 358, Laws of 2007.]
2. New WAC 390-05-243 defining ministerial functions effective January 14, 2008.