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Home - About the Database

Welcome to the Indiana Campaign Finance Database. Please take a moment to learn about the database – and to offer your suggestions for improving it.

What is the quality of the data?

The information presented in the campaign finance database is, to the best of our ability, an accurate representation of the reports filed with the Election Division. This information is being provided as a service to the public, has been processed by the Election Division and should be cross-referenced with the original report on file with the Election Division.

Some of the information in the campaign finance database was submitted in electronic form. Most of the information was key-entered from paper reports. Sometimes items which are inconsistent with filing requirements, such as incorrect codes or incorrectly formatted or blank items, are present in the results of a query. They are incorrect or missing in the database because they were incorrect or missing on the reports submitted to the Election Division. For some incorrect or missing data in campaign finance reports, the Election Division has requested that the filer supply an amended report. The campaign finance database will be updated to reflect amendments received.

What does the database contain?

By Indiana law, candidates and committees are required to disclose detailed financial records of contributions received and expenditures made and debts owed by or to the committee. For committees, the campaign finance database contains all contributions, expenditures, and debts reported to the Election Division since January 1, 1998.

Information about 1996 contributions and expenditures is available on-line only in summary form at www.in.gov/sos/elections/campaign/index.html. Information concerning contributions and expenditures is not available on-line for elections before 1996.

Whose records are included?

- **Candidates for statewide office**, i.e., Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Clerk of the Supreme Court.
- **Candidates for state legislative office**, i.e., STATE Senate and STATE House of Representatives.
- **Legislative Caucus Committees**, i.e., those organizations which are organized by members of the General Assembly of the same party, with the purpose to influence only the election of candidates for legislative office, and which accepts contributions or makes expenditures that exceed \$100 during a calendar year to influence only the elections of candidates for legislative office (IC 3-5-2-27.3)
- **Political Action Committees (PACs)**, i.e., an organization located within or outside Indiana which is not an auxiliary party organization, a legislative caucus committee, a regular party committee, or a candidate's committee, and is not affiliated with a political party or a candidate's committee, and which accepts contributions or makes expenditures of more than \$100 per calendar year for the purpose of aiding in the election or defeat of a candidate or a group of candidates for state, legislative, local, or school board office, or the outcome of a public question that will appear on the ballot in Indiana. (IC 3-5-2-37.)
- **Regular Party Committee**, i.e., a central committee or a national party committee of a political party. A regular party committee includes state committees, congressional district committees, county committees, and city and town committees of a political party (IC 3-5-2-42; 3-5-2-8.)
- **Candidate Exploratory Committee**, i.e., committees whose candidate otherwise fits the definition of a candidate committee but where the candidate has not decided to run for a particular office (IC 3-5-2-7.)

When are the records available?

Campaign finance reports are posted to the database as they are received from the candidates and committees. Our data is as current as possible, consistent with the reporting requirements of Indiana law. Candidates and committees that file paper reports only will have reports available on-line in approximately 7 days following the pre-primary and pre-election report and 14 days after the annual report. Candidates and committees that file reports electronically will have reports available on-line at the same time as the paper reports.

How do I use the database?

The database and its associate search engines have been designed to be self-explanatory and to allow use without prior knowledge of campaign finance law.

Directions for specific parts of the system are found on their respective pages.

