



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

O-20-24

Surplus Election Funds & Reporting Deadlines

This summary was prepared by the City of Annapolis Office of Law for use by members of the Annapolis City Council during consideration of the legislation.

BILL SUMMARY

O-20-24 implements the recommendations of the City of Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections to update the City's election law before the 2025 municipal elections.

These changes only apply to city-wide elections run by the City Board of Supervisors of Elections and not county, state, or federal elections, which may include City issues.

This does not impact the 2024 national and state elections.

Elections - Chapter 44.44 - Surplus Funds and Reporting Deadlines

Section 4.44.040 - Anonymous contributions—Surplus funds.

This section deals with funds remaining after a candidate ends their campaign and adds a new way to distribute the money.

- The revised Subsection B(3) allows candidates with surplus funds to donate the money to charitable organizations when they leave office or end their campaigns.
- Other changes are grammar & style updates.

Section 4.44.100 - Reporting Deadlines--Failure to File

This section has been updated to conform to current state election standards, and it has been edited and reformatted to the current style.

- A. 1. Candidates must submit reports once they reach \$300 in contributions, and they can file the report as early as five years before the election. The candidate, their campaign chair or treasurer, are responsible for filing the reports.



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2. Certificates of candidacy are filed seven weeks before the primary election. If the candidate has not filed the finance report as required, the candidate nor their campaign representatives can file for the certificate of candidacy.
- B. Lays out the process for late fees when filing candidate reports.
1. The fee amount will now be found in the Fees Schedule, which the City Council adopts annually and which is found in the City Code appendix.
 2. Fees on late reports will be assessed daily until the report is filed.
 3. The maximum fee is now the total amount owed (the daily rate for each day the report is late).
 4. Fees cannot be paid using campaign funds; they must be paid personally by the candidate or treasurer responsible for submitting the report on time.
- C. Lays out the process for the campaign's failure to provide required campaign information.
1. The Board of Supervisors of Elections will notify the candidate of any missing information, and the campaign has 15 days to update their reports.
 2. Failure to fix the report could result in sanctions.
- D. No substantial changes
- E. Explains that the reports are mandatory and provides some exceptions to the rules above.
1. This subsection is notice that filing the reports required in Title 4 is mandatory.
 2. Some exceptions are provided: if a court is brought in due to an election or campaign issue and a candidate asks for a fee waiver due to the candidate's financial status.