



Ethics Reform in 2011

Passage of House Bill 232 made several helpful changes to the state ethics laws during the 2011 session.

Electronic or Paper Filing

County elected officials must still file Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports and Personal Financial Disclosure Reports with the Georgia Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. Both reports may now be filed electronically or by certified mail/statutory overnight delivery. The commission highly encourages electronic filing.

No Email Address Required

County elected officials are no longer required to provide an e-mail address to the commission.

Notice from Commission

Notice must now be given by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery when the commission contacts a local official regarding the filing of a complaint, a technical defect in a filing, a failure to make a timely filing, or a late fee or other penalty.

When County Employees Must Register As Lobbyists

County employees only must register as lobbyists under the following circumstances:

- Expending more than \$1,000 to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation; to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer; or to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board; and/or
- Spending more than 10 percent of their working hours engaged in promoting or opposing the passage of any legislation; promoting or opposing the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer; or promoting or opposing any matter before the State Transportation Board.

Important Filing Dates

The dates below were set in 2010 and are for informational purposes only. They may not be comprehensive.

Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports

Non-election Years - June 30 and December 31

Election Years - March 31, June 30, September 30, October 25, December 31, and

- Six days before any run-off primary or election
- During the period between the last report due and the date of the election, all contributions of \$1,000 or more must be reported within two business days
- 15 days prior to any special primary or special general election and 6 days prior to any special primary or special general runoff
- If a candidate has no opposition and receives less than \$100, only the first and final reports are required.

Personal Financial Disclosures

Non-election Years - Between January 1 and July 1

Election Years - No later than the 15th day following the date of qualifying as a candidate

Contacts at the Georgia Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

County officials may contact Stacey Kalberman, Executive Secretary, (skalberman@ethics.ga.gov) or the Education Division with any questions. Ms. Kalberman, Belinda Godwin, Director of Education and Information, (bgodwin@ethics.ga.gov) and Maria Bazile, Education Coordinator, (mbazile@ethics.ga.gov) may be reached by calling (404) 463-1980. Additional information is also available at www.ethics.ga.gov.