

STATE OF TENNESSEE



BUREAU OF ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE
REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Drew Rawlins

DATE: October 5, 2011
TO: General Assembly Members
FROM: Drew Rawlins
Executive Director
RE: Corporate Campaign Contributions

I think as all of you are aware, a change was made to the campaign finance statutes which allow corporations to make contributions to candidate and PACS. We have had numerous questions concerning the application of the change to the statute. I hope this memo will help answer many of the questions.

A corporation that makes expenditures of over \$250 in the aggregate to support or oppose candidate(s) in a calendar quarter is a "political campaign committee". The \$250 includes monetary contributions, in-kind contributions and independent expenditures made by corporations.

Corporations to Candidates

If a corporation is a political campaign committee by the above definition then they must register with the Registry of Election Finance (Registry) as one of the following:

- If the corporation gives to two or more candidates or plans on giving to two or more candidates then they must file an Appointment of Political Treasurer statement with the Registry to register as a PAC. Please note, the corporation (PAC) will be required to file campaign financial disclosure reports with the Registry. Contributions are subject to PAC limits.
- If the corporation intends to give to only one candidate they must file an Appointment of Political Treasurer statement with the Registry to register as a single-candidate committee. Please note, the corporation (single-candidate committee) will be required to file campaign financial disclosure reports with the Registry. Contributions are subject to person limits.

Corporations to PACs (includes Parties and Caucuses)

A corporation making **only** contributions to PACs does not have to register with the Registry. The amount of contributions the corporation may make to a PAC(s) is unlimited.