



STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

July 2025 - Addendum to A Guide for Municipal Candidates

In June 2025, the General Assembly made several revisions to campaign finance law in Public Act 25-26 (Public Act 25-26 can be found [here](#)). These law changes included:

A. Increases the amount an individual or group may spend on certain events for invitations, food, and beverages without being subject to certain campaign finance requirements (i.e., house parties).

B. Modifies disclaimer requirements for certain political communications and advertisements by (1) modifying who must be listed in the disclaimer for certain committees, (2) generally applying them to text messages, and

(3) removing certain requirements to include a personal audio disclaimer for certain video communications or advertisements.

C. Makes related changes to the state campaign finance law's definitions of the terms "organization expenditure" and "solicit" regarding the sharing of content created by a candidate committee or on behalf of a candidate by certain other committee.

For your convenience and to assist with understanding these changes, below are provided track changes to our 2025 *A Guide for Municipal Candidates*. An updated municipal guidebook will be released for 2027. *The 2025 municipal guidebook may be found on the Commission's website, or [here](#).*



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IV. Raising Funds for Your Campaign

E. Other Sources of Funds – Donations and Funds Not Considered Contributions

1. Reportable Receipts

d. House Parties (page 31 of guidebook)

There are also special provisions relating to expenses of a fundraising affair or gathering held for a candidate or committee in the personal residence of an individual (or a community room in the individual's residence facility).

Under the "house party exemption" to the definition of "contribution" and "expenditure," an individual or individuals may pay the costs of invitations, food, and beverages, subject to the limits described below:

- The cumulative value for **any single event** hosted by an individual on behalf of the committee may not exceed ~~\$400~~ \$500. This means that if a single individual is hosting a house party at their residence, they are limited to spending ~~\$400~~ \$500 on the event and it does not count as a contribution.
- The cumulative value for any single event hosted by **two or more individuals** on behalf of the committee may not exceed ~~\$800~~ \$1,000. Thus, for example, if three people host an event for the committee at one of their homes, each person may spend up to ~~\$400~~ \$500 on the event but collectively they may only spend ~~\$800~~ \$1,000 altogether.
- The **aggregate**, cumulative value of the invitations, food, or beverages provided by an individual for **several events** hosted by that individual may not exceed ~~\$800~~ \$1,000 in total with respect to a single election in the case of a candidate committee or ~~\$800~~ \$1,000 per calendar year with respect to a town committee or political slate committee. In other words, an individual may host multiple events for the committee over the course of the election cycle (or calendar year in the case of a town committee or political slate committee) as long as the individual does not cumulatively spend over ~~\$800~~ \$1,000 for that committee. Again, each event is subject to the dollar amounts listed above.



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- The party must be held at the host's residential premises or a community room at such individual's residence facility in order to qualify for the exemption. In the case of multiple hosts, at least one host must own or reside at the residential premises.
- While the host(s) must generally pay for all costs associated with the event in order to make use of the house party exemption, a candidate or committee may pay for a portion or all of the costs of the invitations for the event. In such a case, the amount paid by the candidate or committee is not counted toward the calculation of the cumulative value of the party provided by the host(s) for purposes of determining whether the event falls within the house party exemption.

These costs are in-kind receipts that are not counted against such individual's contribution limit, but must be disclosed in Section L5, "In-Kind Donations Not Considered Contributions Associated with a House Party," of the [SEEC Form 20](#). However, if the cost to the host(s) exceeds the applicable amount, the entire value is an in-kind contribution that is counted against the contribution limit of the individual(s) and must be disclosed in Section M as an "In-Kind Contribution."

In order for the event to qualify for the "house party" exemption, the entire cost o/f the event (invitations, food, and beverages) should not exceed the applicable amount outlined above. The committee cannot plan to hold a far more costly event and merely pay for any amount that exceeds that limit. In other words, the ~~\$400/\$800~~ [\\$500/\\$1,000](#) amount is not an offset for a more costly party. Alternatively, the homeowner may provide their home free of charge and the campaign may pay for the entire event.

[General Statutes §§ 9-601a(b)(5) [\(as amended by P.A 25-26\)](#), 9-608(c)]

2. Non-Reportable Receipts

a. Organization Expenditures (page 32 of guidebook)

Some municipal candidates are eligible to receive certain types of in-kind donations from party committees called *organization expenditures*. An organization expenditure by a party committee is specifically exempted from

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the definitions of contribution and expenditure for purposes of the campaign finance laws and, therefore, does not count towards the party committee's contribution limit to the candidate, but remains a reportable transaction by the party committee for purposes of public disclosure. The recipient candidate or committee does not need to report receipt of an organization expenditure.

Organization expenditures may be made **only** for the following purposes:

- The preparation, display, mailing, or distribution of a party candidate listing, [including the electronic sharing, posting or forwarding of content created by a candidate committee or a party committee... on behalf of a candidate, the use of a personal electronic mail list or an existing electronic mail account for such purposes and other similar de minimis activity that may or may not be related to fundraising](#). A "party candidate listing" is a communication that (1) lists the name(s) of the candidate(s), (2) is distributed through public advertising, direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, Internet, or personal delivery, and (3) promotes the success or defeat of any candidate or slate of candidates, or the success or defeat of any referendum question or political party, as long as the communication is not a solicitation for or on behalf of a candidate committee;
- Printed or electronic documents including party platforms, an electronic page providing merchant account services to be used by a candidate for the collection of online contributions, an issue paper, information on Connecticut election law, voter registration lists, and voter identification information that a party committee creates or maintains for party or caucus building and gives to candidates who are members of the same party;
- Campaign events at which campaign materials are present and food or beverage may be provided, but at which no contribution shall be received, solicited, or bundled; and
- Retention of services of an advisor or individual to assist with a candidate's campaign.



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Organization expenditures for municipal candidates may **only** be made by party committees. The scope of what constitutes an organization expenditure is narrowly construed. Any committee authorized to make such an expenditure should seek guidance from the Commission about whether the planned outlay of funds constitutes a permissible organization expenditure. For the complete definition of organization expenditure, see General Statutes § 9-601 (25) [\(as amended by P.A 25-26\)](#).

The significance of an organization expenditure is that if properly qualified, it does not count against the donor committee's contribution limit, because it is exempted from the definition of contribution. Again, party committees are the only type of committee that may make organization expenditures to benefit municipal candidates.

I. Attribution Requirements for Communications

1. "Paid For By" (page 45 of guidebook)

A candidate or political slate committee that finances any written, typed or printed communication, or any web-based written communication, must include on the face of the communication the text "paid for by" together with the name of the sponsoring committee ~~and its treasurer~~. [Listing the treasurer's name is no longer required](#). Such communications paid for by town committees must contain the text "paid for by" together with the name of the town committee (the treasurer's name is not required).

Treasurers of town and political slate committees should be mindful of individuals or candidates on the slate who wish to fund their own communications in coordination with the committee. Where candidates are running on a slate of candidates sponsored by a town or political committee, that committee must be the **sole funding source** for the slate of candidates. Therefore, if one such candidate wants to pay for their own communication, the communication must be reported as an in-kind contribution from the individual or candidate to the committee and counts toward their contribution limits. Treasurers must approve such expenditures in advance and the attribution would still be "paid for by"



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followed by the name of the committee, and in the case of a political slate committee, also the name of the treasurer (as well as the “approved by” language discussed in the next subsection). Alternatively, the communication could contain the candidate’s individual disclaimer (i.e., “paid for by” followed by the name and address of the candidate, along with “approved by” language discussed in the next subsection).

A candidate who has filed a 1B exemption because they are self-financing or not intending to spend or receive more than \$1,000 and who finances a written, typed or printed communication or web-based communication must similarly include on the face of the communication the words “paid for by” together with the candidate’s name and address.

An individual who is not a candidate and who finances a written, typed, or printed communication or web-based written communication with the cooperation of, at the request or suggestion of, or in consultation with any candidate, agent of a candidate or candidate committee must also include on the face of the communication the words “paid for by” together with the name and address of the individual financing the communication.

[General Statutes § 9-621(a) [\(as amended by P.A 25-26\)](#)]

2. “Approved By”

Additionally, communications financed by any candidate committee, political slate committee, or town committee must include on the face of the communication the words **“approved by”** together with the name of the benefiting candidate, whether or not the communication is in support of the approving candidate or in opposition to some other candidate.

Where a **party** committee pays for any **print, television or social media** communication promoting a **slate** of candidates, it is not required to include the words “approved by” together with the name of the candidates. It need only include the “paid for by” language followed by the name of the party committee. A candidate who has filed a 1B exemption because they are self-financing or not intending to spend or receive more than \$1,000 and who



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finances a written, typed or printed communication or web-based communication must similarly include on the face of the communication the words “approved by” followed by the candidate’s name. Communications financed by an individual with the cooperation of, at the request or suggestion of, or in consultation with any candidate, agent of a candidate or candidate committee must also include on the face of the communication the words “approved by” together with the name of the candidate.

[General Statutes § 9-621(a) and (i)]

“Paid for by” and “Approved by” Attribution Requirements

	CANDIDATE COMMITTEE	POLITICAL SLATE COMMITTEE	TOWN COMMITTEE
Paid for by	Name of committee, name of treasurer	Name of committee, name of treasurer	Name of committee
Approved by	Name of candidate	Name(s) of candidate(s)	Name(s) of candidate(s)*

* Only required if the form of the communication is not print, television, or social media, and/or the communication is not promoting a slate of candidates.

[3. Text Messages \(new section\)](#)

[Text messages must display the required disclaimer in the initial text message or include a link in the message to a website where the disclaimer appears.](#)

[\[General Statutes § 9-621\(a\) \(as amended by P.A 25-26\)\]](#)

3. 4. Television or Internet Video Advertising Communications (page 47 of guidebook)

In addition to the “paid for by” and “approved by” attribution requirements outlined above, any candidate, candidate committee or exploratory committee that finances any television advertising or Internet video advertising in support of the candidate sponsoring the communication or in opposition to



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some other candidate is required to simultaneously include ~~at the end of~~ [during](#) such advertising, for a period of not less than four seconds, the following: (A) a clearly identifiable photograph or similar image of the sponsoring candidate; [and](#) (B) a clearly readable printed statement (i) identifying the sponsoring candidate and (ii) indicating that the sponsoring candidate has approved the advertising; ~~and (C) a personal audio message in the following form: "I am (sponsoring candidate's name) and I approved this message."~~ The advertisement must also include the candidate's name, image and voice in the **narrative** of the advertisement. While these additional attributions are not required for town committee and political slate committees, they must still include their general attribution (i.e., "paid for by" and "approved by") on such communications.

It is no longer a requirement that the advertisement includes the candidate's voice and a simultaneous, personal audio message, in the following form: "I am ... (candidate's name) and I approved this message."

[General Statutes § 9-621(b)(1) [\(as amended by P.A. 25-26\)](#)]

4. 5. Radio or Internet Audio Advertising Communications

In addition to the "paid for by" and "approved by" attribution requirements outlined above, any candidate, candidate committee or exploratory committee that finances any radio advertising or Internet audio advertising in support of the candidate or candidates sponsoring the communication or in opposition to some other candidate is required to include at the end of such advertising a personal audio statement by the sponsoring candidate or candidates that (A) identifies the sponsoring candidate or candidates and the elective office(s) being sought and (B) indicates approval of the advertising in the following form: "I am (we are)...(candidate's name or names) and I (we) approved this message." The advertisement must also include the candidate's name and voice in the **narrative** of the advertisement. While these additional attributions are not required for town committees and political slate committees, they must still include their general attribution (i.e., "paid for by" and "approved by") on such communications.



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[General Statutes § 9-621(b)(2)]

~~5.~~ 6. Campaign “Robo” Telephone Calls

In addition to the “paid for by” and “approved by” attribution requirements outlined above, if any candidate, candidate committee, or exploratory committee makes or incurs an expenditure for automated, “robo” telephone calls, the candidate’s name and voice must be contained in the narrative of the call. While these additional attributions are not required for town committees and political slate committees, they must still include their general attribution (i.e., “paid for by” and “approved by”) on such communications.

[General Statutes § 9-621(b)(3)]

~~6.~~ 7. Special Requirements for Deficit After the Election

In addition to the “paid for by” and “approved by” attribution requirements outlined above, any candidate committee that has a deficit after the election and solicits funds to eliminate the deficit by written or printed communication must include a statement that the funds sought are to eliminate a deficit. Please note that these contributions count towards the donor’s election contribution limit and are not subject to a separate limit.

[General Statutes § 9-621(e)]

~~7.~~ 8. Exempt Communications

The attribution requirements outlined above do not apply to editorials, news stories, or commentaries published in a newspaper, magazine, or journal on its own behalf, upon its own responsibility, and not in exchange for any compensation. In addition, banners, political paraphernalia, and signs with a surface area of not more than 32 square feet (most lawn signs) are also exempt from the attribution requirements.

[General Statutes § 9-621(d)]