



STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

July 2025 - Addendum to A Guide for Party (Town and State Central) Committees

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 Party (Town and State Central) Committees*. An updated party committee guidebook will be released for 2027. The 2025 party committee guidebook may be found on the Commission's website, or [here](#).



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IV. Raising Funds for Your Committee

(B) Other Sources of Funds – Donations and Funds Not Considered Contributions

1. Reportable Receipts

e. House Parties (page 21 of guidebook)

There is also a special provision relating to expenses of a fundraising affair or gathering held for a party committee by an individual at their residential premises (or a community room in the individual's residence facility).

If a host pays for such a party to benefit a state central or town committee and the aggregate cost to the host for invitations, food or beverages for the event does not exceed ~~\$400~~ \$500 (or ~~\$800~~ \$1,000 for two or more events in any calendar year), then these costs are not considered contributions to the committee.

If an event is hosted by two or more individuals on behalf of a party committee, with at least one of the hosting individuals owning or residing at the residential premises, and the aggregate cost for the event does not exceed ~~\$800~~ \$1,000 total (with each host paying no more than ~~\$400~~ \$500), then these costs are also not considered contributions to the committee.

Such 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. If the cost to the host(s) exceeds ~~\$400/\$800~~ \$500/\$1,000, 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."

For the event to qualify for the "house party" exemption, the entire cost of the event (invitations, food, and beverages) should not exceed the ~~\$400/\$800~~ \$500/\$1,000 amount.



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Thus, 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. However, a candidate or committee may pay for a portion or all of the costs of the invitations for the event. 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.

Alternatively, the homeowner or resident may also provide their home free of charge and the committee can pay for all costs associated with the event.

Important Note: Communicator lobbyists and their agents and immediate family members may not host a house party for a party committee **fundraiser** as this would constitute bundling. Such individuals may host a house party that is not a fundraiser. Principals of state contractors may host a house party for a party committee, whether a fundraiser or not, so long as they are careful not to invite individuals from whom they are prohibited from soliciting. In addition, they should take great care not to exceed the house party limits as this would constitute a prohibited contribution.

[General Statutes §§ 9-601(27), 9-601a(b)(5) [\(as amended by P.A. 25-26\)](#), 9-601b(b)(8), 9-608(c), 9-610(i)]

V. Spending Committee Funds

D. Organization Expenditures (page 32 of guidebook)

An organization expenditure by a party committee is specifically exempted from the definition of contribution and expenditure for purposes of the campaign finance laws; however, the expenditure remains a reportable transaction by party committees for purposes of public disclosure. **This means that an organization expenditure does not count against the party committee's contribution limit, because it is exempted from the definition of contribution.**



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Organization expenditures are the only donations a party committee may make to benefit candidates participating in the CEP.

[General Statutes §§ 9-601a(b)(16), 9-601b(b)(8)]

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 or names of candidates, (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;

Important Note: Party committees wishing to sponsor a party candidate listing should be mindful of the registration status of candidates they wish to include, as certain candidates have filed exemptions from forming a candidate committee that restrict or prohibit their ability to receive organization expenditures. To be included, the candidates may have to pay their proportional share or change their funding source, if feasible. See below for more information.

- 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, issue papers, information on Connecticut election law, voter registration lists, and voter identification information that a party, legislative caucus, or legislative leadership 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;

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For example: A town committee wants to host a meet and greet as an organization expenditure for a candidate. To qualify as an organization expenditure neither the town committee nor the candidate can raise funds at the meet and greet. If the town committee and/or the candidate wish to raise funds at the meet and greet, it can be hosted as a joint event with both committees sharing the cost proportionally.

- Retention of services of an advisor or individual to assist with a candidate's campaign.

The scope of what constitutes an organization expenditure is narrowly construed. Any committee authorized to make such an expenditure should seek guidance from Commission staff about whether the planned use of funds constitutes a permissible organization expenditure. For the complete definition of organization expenditure, see General Statutes § 9-601 (25) [\(as amended by P.A 25-26\)](#).

Important Note: Legislative leadership committees, legislative caucus committees, and party committees are the only types of committees that may utilize the organization expenditure exemption.

There are additional restrictions on organization expenditures made on behalf of **General Assembly candidates participating in the CEP**. A party committee **may not** make any organization expenditures on party candidate listings benefiting participating General Assembly candidates **for a primary campaign**. In addition, a town committee may make only up to **\$10,000** in organization expenditures on behalf of a participating candidate running for state senate for a general election and only up to **\$3,500** for a participating candidate running for state representative for a general election. These limits are adjusted biennially in accordance with any change in the consumer price index and will be adjusted in January 2026 for the 2026 election cycle. An addendum will be made available to this Guide reflecting the most current amounts. For all other candidate committees, there are no limitations on the amount of organization expenditures that a party committee may make on their behalf.

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Important Note:

Election Year	State Senate Adjusted OE Amount	State Representative Adjusted OE Amount
2024	\$14,200.00	\$4,970.00
2022	\$12,910.00	\$4,518.50
2020	\$11,900.00	\$4,165.00
2018	\$11,420.00	\$3,997.00
2016	\$10,675.00	\$3,736.25

A candidate who has filed an **exemption** from forming a candidate committee ([SEEC Form 1B](#)) because they intend to finance their campaign *entirely* from personal funds or does not intend to receive or expend any funds may not receive organization expenditures. Also, a candidate who has filed an exemption from forming a candidate committee because they are on a slate of candidates solely funded by a party committee or political slate committee may not receive organization expenditures. In the case of a candidate funded by a party committee, that committee is, of course, permitted to make unlimited expenditures to promote that candidate. In the case of a candidate funded by a political slate committee, the political slate committee can still receive in-kind contributions from a party committee, subject to the applicable contribution limits outlined previously in this chapter. Finally, a candidate who has filed an exemption from forming a candidate committee because they do not intend to raise or spend more than \$1,000 may receive an organization expenditure under that exemption so long as it does not put the candidate over the \$1,000 threshold.

If a candidate who has filed a **1B exemption** would like to be included in a party candidate listing or involved in a campaign event that a party committee is doing as an organization expenditure for other candidates, the candidate may do so if they pay for a proportional share of the associated costs (and have their attribution included on the communication), assuming such payment would not disqualify the candidate from the exemption they have chosen.

For more information on how and when to report organization expenditures, please see [Chapter VI. Reporting Information](#).

[General Statutes §§ 9-601(25) [\(as amended by P.A. 25-26\)](#), 9-608(c)(5), 9-718]

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J. Attribution Requirements for Communications (page 37 of guidebook)

When a party committee makes expenditures for communications, certain attributions are required, whether the communication supports or opposes a candidate, party, or referendum question, or solicits funds. The communications can take many forms, and may consist of letters, brochures, circulars, emails, websites and other web-based communications, text messages, billboards, transit advertisements, newspaper advertisements and similar communications, campaign signs that are greater than 32 square feet in surface area, as well as television or internet video advertising, radio or internet radio advising, and automated telephone calls ("robo" calls).

1. "Paid For By"

Any party committee that finances such communications must include on the face of the communication the text **"Paid for by," together with the full name of the sponsoring committee**. A party committee can only abbreviate its name in the attribution if it has indicated the abbreviation as its "acronym" on the committee registration statement ([SEEC Form 2](#)). The treasurer's name is not required.

2. "Approved By"

If a party committee's communication supports or opposes a candidate and is done with the consent of, in coordination with, or in consultation with a candidate, candidate's committee or candidate's agent, the communication must also include on its face the text **"Approved by," together with the name(s) of the candidate(s)**.

Most party committee communications in support of or in opposition to a candidate can be done as a **party candidate listing** organization expenditure which, while not considered a contribution, must still include the "Approved by" language. If the communication does not constitute a party candidate listing, either because it solicits funds for a candidate committee or is benefiting a candidate that is ineligible to receive organization expenditures (i.e., a candidate being funded by a political slate committee), the communication would constitute an **in-kind contribution** to that candidate or committee (unless reimbursed). Accordingly, the party committee should not only report the communication on its own financial disclosure statement as an expenditure that was coordinated without reimbursement sought but should also notify the other committee's treasurer of the expenditure, who in turn should report it as an in-

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kind contribution. Because such coordinated expenditures are in-kind contributions from the party committee to the candidate or committee, alternatively the communication may contain the other committee's attribution rather than the party committee's attribution (i.e., "Paid for by" followed by the name of the candidate committee and the name of its treasurer, along with "Approved by" together with the name of the candidate).

Important Note: If a candidate, candidate committee, or political slate committee wants to pay its proportional costs of a communication that a party committee is otherwise doing as a party candidate listing for other candidates, both the party committee's and the candidate's or candidate or slate committee's attribution must be included on the face of the communication. For more information on the attribution requirements for candidates or candidate committees, please refer to the [Commission's candidate guidebooks](#).

If a party committee's coordinated communication as described above, whether done as a party candidate listing or a contribution, features **five or more candidates**, the Commission will not otherwise take any action against a committee whose attribution includes only "Approved by," followed by a broad reference to the candidates (e.g., "Approved by the Above Listed Candidates"), rather than all of the candidates' names, provided they are otherwise identified in the communication.

Moreover, if the party committee's communication takes the form of a **print, television or social media communication** promoting a **slate** of candidates (i.e., more than one candidate), it is **not** required to include the "Approved by" language. Rather, it need only include the "Paid for by" language followed by the name of the party committee.

[General Statutes § 9-621(a), (b), and (c); Declaratory Ruling 2011-01]

[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. Referendum Communications



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If a party committee makes an expenditure for any written, typed, or other printed communication which promotes the success or defeat of a referendum question, the attribution must only contain the "paid for by" language (i.e., "Paid for by [name of the party committee]").

[General Statutes § 9-621(c)]

~~4.~~ 5. Font Requirements for Certain Communications

For attributions on communications contained in a flyer, leaflet, newspaper, magazine, or similar literature, or that is delivered by mail, the disclaimer required to be on the face of the communication must be at least in **eight-point type of uniform font**.

[General Statutes § 9-621(k)]

~~5.~~ 6. Exempt Communications

Attributions are **not** required for "political paraphernalia" such as pins, badges, hats, rulers, and bumper stickers. Campaign signs (such as lawn signs) that have a surface area of 32 square feet or less and banners are also exempt from the attribution requirements.

[General Statutes § 9-621(d)]