



STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

July 2025 - Addendum to

A Guide for Traditional Political 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 Traditional Political Committees*. An updated traditional political committee guidebook will be released for 2027. *The 2025 traditional political committees guidebook may be found on the Commission's website, or [here](#).*



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V. Raising Funds for Your Committee

B. Other Sources of Funds – Donations & Funds Not Considered Contributions

1. Reportable Receipts

d. House Parties (page 36 of guidebook)

There are also special provisions relating to expenses of a fundraising affair or gathering held for a political 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 political 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 with each event costing the host no more than ~~\$400~~ \$500), then these costs are not considered contributions to the committee.

If an event is hosted by two or more individuals on behalf of a political 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 to be 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. Thus, the committee cannot plan to hold a far more costly event and merely pay 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 the costs of the



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invitations for the event. The amount paid by the candidate or committee for invitations 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 as a **fundraiser** for a political committee authorized to give to statewide office or General Assembly candidates as this would constitute bundling. Such individuals may host a house party that is not a fundraiser. For political committees subject to the state contractor restrictions, **principals of state contractors** may still host a house party for such committees, whether a fundraiser or not, if they do not invite those 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)]

VII. Spending Committee Funds

2. Permissible Expenditures

3. Organization Expenditures (Legislative Leadership and Legislative Caucus Committees Only) (page 61 of guidebook)

An organization expenditure by a legislative leadership committee or legislative caucus committee is specifically exempted from the definitions of contribution and expenditure for purposes of the campaign finance laws but remains a reportable transaction for purposes of public disclosure. This means that an organization expenditure does not count against the donor committee's contribution limit because it is exempt from the definition of contribution.

Legislative leadership and legislative caucus committees are the only types of political committees that may make organization expenditures, and they may only make them on behalf of General Assembly candidates.

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



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- 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: Legislative leadership and caucus committees may not make any organization expenditures on party candidate listings benefiting participating General Assembly candidates **for a primary campaign**.

- 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**;

For example: A caucus PAC wants to host a meet and greet as an organization expenditure for a candidate. To qualify as an organization expenditure neither the caucus PAC nor the candidate can raise funds at the meet and greet. If the caucus PAC 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.



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

Important Note: Legislative leadership and legislative caucus committees **may not** solicit contributions on behalf of a candidate committee. A candidate participating in the Citizens' Election Program must demonstrate enough public support to qualify for a grant, as such only a participating candidate committee may solicit and receive contributions used to qualify for a grant.

Section 9-718 of the General Statutes sets forth the limits on the amount of organization expenditures that a legislative caucus committee, or legislative leadership committee can make to benefit certain participating candidates. Such committees could make up to **\$10,000.00** in organization expenditures on behalf of a participating candidate running for state senate for the general election and only up to **\$3,500.00** for a participating candidate running for state representative for the general election. These limits are adjusted biennially in accordance with any change in the consumer price index and will next be adjusted in January 2026 for the 2026 elections.

Important Note:

Election Year	State Senate Adjusted Amount	State Representative Adjusted 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

Under recent legislative changes, legislative leadership, and legislative caucus committees of the same party, in the House and Senate respectively, can

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aggregate their maximum organization expenditure amounts for participating candidates, provided there is a written agreement between the treasurers of each aggregating committee. Upon execution of the said agreement, the treasurers must submit the agreement to SEEC, which will make the agreement available to the public on the Commission's website

Additionally, a legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee may pay or reimburse another legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership committee for its pro rata share of the expense of accomplishing the paying or reimbursing committee's lawful purpose. These include shared expenses for which only the committee being paid or reimbursed was under contractual obligation to pay.

For nonparticipating General Assembly candidate committees, there are no limitations on the amount of organization expenditures that legislative leadership and caucus committees may make on their behalf.

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\(25\)](#); Public Act 23-205 §173.

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

[General Statutes §§ [9-601\(25\)](#) (as amended by P.A 25-26), [9-601a\(16\)](#), [9-601b\(8\)](#), [9-608\(c\)\(5\)](#), [9-718](#); Public Act 23-205 §§171-178; [Declaratory Ruling 2011-01](#)]

9. Attribution Requirements for Communications (page 66 of guidebook)

When a political committee makes expenditures for communications, certain attributions are required, whether the communication supports or opposes a candidate, party, or referendum question, or solicits funds. Which rules apply depend upon whether the expenditure is made independently of a candidate or committee or, conversely, is made in coordination with a candidate, a committee or an agent of a candidate or committee. In order to determine which attribution is required, a political committee must first determine whether



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the expenditure is coordinated or independent. Please see the sections above on independent expenditures and non-independent (coordinated) expenditures for help in making this determination.

Please note that the Commission has determined that a political committee may abbreviate its name in the attribution, provided it has indicated the abbreviation as its "acronym" on the committee's registration statement.

a. Contributions and Coordinated Expenditures

For expenditures that are not made wholly independent of candidates and committees, and are thus coordinated, a political committee that finances such communications **must** include within the communication "Paid for by," together with the full name of the sponsoring committee ~~and the name of its treasurer.~~

If the coordinated communication supports or opposes a candidate (as opposed to promoting or supporting a political party or soliciting funds to benefit any party or political committee) the communication's attribution **must** also include on its face the text "Approved by [candidate's name]." If a political committee's communication as described above features five or more candidates, the Commission will not otherwise take any action against a committee whose attribution includes "Approved by," followed by a broad reference to the candidates (e.g., "Approved by the Above Listed Candidates"), rather than listing all of the candidates' names, provided they are all otherwise clearly identified in the communication.

A coordinated communication constitutes an in-kind contribution to that candidate or committee that it benefits. Accordingly, the political committee must both report the communication on its financial disclosure statement as an expenditure that was coordinated without reimbursement sought and also notify the other committee's treasurer of the expenditure, who in turn should report it as an in-kind contribution. Since such coordinated expenditures are in-kind contributions from the political committee to the candidate or committee, the committees can choose to put the other committee's attribution rather than the political 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). The political committee's attribution is also sufficient.

Where a legislative leadership or legislative caucus committee sponsors a party candidate listing, although it is not considered a contribution, it too must include the "Approved by" language, followed by the name(s) of the candidate(s)



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featured, in addition to the "Paid for by" language. It would also be permitted to make a broad reference to the candidates (e.g., "Approved by the Above Listed Candidates") rather than list them separately provided there are five or more candidates, and they are all clearly identified in the communication.

The aforementioned attributions must be included when a political committee expends funds on any of the following communications:

- Written, typed, or other printed communications, including text messages;
- Web-based written communications, including emails and social media posts;
- Television or Internet video advertising;
- Radio or internet radio advertising; and
- Automated telephone calls ("robo" calls).

[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\(a\) and \(b\) \(as amended by P.A 25-26\)](#); [Declaratory Ruling 2011-01](#)]