

What You Need to Know When Opening a Political Committee

- Every candidate must file paperwork with the Board of Elections office to organize a political committee within ten days of:
 - Receiving or spending any money in support of their candidacy,
 - Filing a Notice of Candidacy, or
 - Making a public announcement of a definite intent to run for public office in a particular election; whichever comes first.
- When you file the committee paperwork with the Board of Elections, you will receive a copy of the 2010-2011 Campaign Finance Manual. Be sure to read it carefully.
- It is required that campaign funds be maintained in a bank account that is used exclusively by the political committee. **The use of personal bank accounts for campaign purposes is no longer permitted.**
- The candidate may appoint himself or any individual, with exception of the candidate's spouse, to serve as treasurer for the committee. Treasurers must participate in training as to the duties of office within three months of appointment. All treasurers must be trained regardless of the amount of money raised or spent during the election cycle. For more information on treasurer training, visit the State Board of Elections website at www.sboe.state.nc.us and select *Campaign Finance*, then *Training*.
- When deciding whether to file over or under the \$1,000 threshold, keep in mind that anything you purchase with personal funds for the campaign will count toward that \$1,000.
 - For example, if you decide to purchase political signs using personal money, the cost of those signs is considered a contribution to the committee.
- All committees should keep accurate records of contributions and expenditures regardless of whether the committee filed over or under the \$1,000 threshold. In the event that the threshold is exceeded, full disclosure of activity will be required.
- If you have any questions regarding campaign finance, please call Sara Ashcraft at the Brunswick County Board of Elections, (910) 253-2620.