



What kind of political committee or fund should I register?

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

When your group is deciding what kind of entity to register, you should consider three things:

- What is the group's major purpose?
- What does the group want to spend its money on?
- Does the group want to take contributions from corporations or from groups not registered with the Board?

Because candidate committees, political party units, and general purpose political committees and funds CANNOT accept corporate contributions, either directly or indirectly, your group's decision regarding whether to accept corporate contributions will affect how your group may spend its money.

What is the group's major purpose?

Political committees are groups of two or more people whose major purpose is to influence elections. That includes elections for state and local candidates and for state and local ballot questions. Registering as a political committee indicates that the group is going to raise and spend money in its own name to influence elections and that it will track that money for disclosure purposes.

Political funds are accumulations of money by groups of two or more people whose main purpose is something other than influencing elections. If such a group wants to spend some of its money to influence state or local elections, the money that the group collects or uses to influence elections is called its political fund. The political fund is not an entity separate from the group itself; it is just an accumulation of the group's money. Registering as a political fund indicates that the group is going to use some of its money to influence elections and that it will track that money for disclosure purposes. The political fund's money may be kept in a separate bank account, and a separate bank account is required if contributions will be made to the political fund by other organizations or individuals other than the group operating the political fund.

How does the group want to spend its money and from whom will it take contributions?

There are two specialized types of political committees and funds that 1) may accept more money from groups not registered with the Board without obtaining additional donor disclosure from those groups; and 2) may accept corporate contributions. Because they may accept corporate contributions, they may not make contributions to candidates, party units, or general purposes political committees and funds.

Independent expenditure committees and funds make expenditures for or against candidates without consulting or coordinating with any candidate or their campaign committee in any way. Independent expenditures are not contributions. Independent expenditure committees and funds may also make expenditures to promote or defeat state or local ballot questions.

Ballot question committees and funds only make expenditures to promote or defeat state or local ballot questions.

When a contribution is made by a group that is not registered with the Board to a group that is registered with the Board, a recipient that is a general purpose political committee or fund must obtain disclosure of the contributor's donors and other financial information if the amount given exceeds \$200. However, if the recipient is an independent expenditure or ballot question committee or fund, the recipient only needs to obtain disclosure of the contributor's donors if the contributor has given more than \$5,000 to all independent expenditure and ballot question committees and funds throughout the calendar year.