

COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES FOR RIAC ISSUES FUNDING

[Effective January 1, 2014]

NOTE: The GAR Governmental Affairs Staff has provided this information as a general overview of the campaign committee registration and disclosure process. This is not a legal document. To ensure compliance with Georgia law, please consult an attorney.

Important Information:

- Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finances Commission – <http://ethics.ga.gov/>
- When creating a campaign committee, a principal officer or treasurer must be identified.
- If publishing materials (e.g., newspaper advertisement, website, yard signs, etc.), the materials must include “Paid for by (name of campaign committee), (principal officer), Chairman”
- In general, disclosure reports must identify all contributions greater than \$100.00 and all expenditures greater than \$100.00, as well as the total of all contributions and expenditures, regardless of amount.
- A registered campaign committee must file a termination statement, along with a campaign contribution disclosure report within ten (10) days of the dissolution of the committee.

Question: Are the RIAC funds being given to a partner organization / coalition or will the local board be spending the money to conduct its own campaign?

Partner Organization
 Ordinarily, no registration or disclosures required*
 *By providing funds to a partner organization, a local board can greatly reduce potential legal liability and government ethics violations.

Local Board
Question: How will the issue be decided?

Proposed constitutional amendment, state-wide question, or state-wide referendum

Ballot question in county or municipal election

Vote by local governmental body (e.g., city council, zoning board, etc.)

Must establish a campaign committee, register with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (GGTCFC), and file disclosure reports electronically:

- 75 days prior to the election date,
- 45 days prior to the election date,
- 15 days prior to the election date,
- Final report prior to December 31 of the election year

Must establish a campaign committee*, register with either the county elections superintendent or the municipal clerk, and file disclosure reports:

- 15 days prior to the election date,
- Final report prior to December 31 of the election year

**Assuming local board's campaign committee contributions and/or expenditures are greater than \$500.00.*

Creation of a campaign committee and filing of disclosure reports is not required; however, certain actions could require an individual to register as a lobbyist (see below).

If any individual spends more than \$1,000.00 or is reimbursed more than \$250.00 for lobbying expenses, that individual must register with the GGTCFC as a lobbyist and file all necessary disclosure reports.

Additional review by legal counsel is strongly recommended.

If any individual spends more than \$1,000.00 for lobbying expenses, that individual must register with the GGTCFC as a lobbyist and file all necessary disclosure reports.