



Wisconsin Ethics Commission

212 East Washington Avenue | Third Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8123 | ethics@wi.gov | ethics.wi.gov

Settlement Offer Schedule for Campaign Finance Violations

This document sets out authorized settlement offers for campaign finance violations, in lieu of pursuing court action. It includes recommended settlement amounts for specific situations. The Commission's authority to make settlement offers is set out in Wis. Stat. § 19.49(1)(b). The Commission may specify settlement amounts for certain violations and may compromise and settle those matters without formal investigation. If an individual or committee chooses not to accept a settlement offer, the Commission may bring a civil action and seek the maximum forfeitures provided by law, including costs and attorneys' fees. The Commission's primary interest is providing timely and accurate campaign finance information to the public, and collection of settlements is secondary. The Commission adopted this schedule at its October 10, 2016 meeting.

1. Late Filing of Continuing Campaign Finance Reports

(Calendar) Days Late:	First Violation:	Second or Greater Violation:
0-30	Warning	Warning
31-60	\$100	\$200
61-90	\$200	\$300
91-120	\$300	\$400
Over 120	\$500	\$500

Filing deadlines are set by Wis. Stat. §§ 11.0204, 11.0304, 11.0404, 11.0504, 11.0604, 11.0704, 11.0804, and 11.0904. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400. Maximum penalty is \$500 plus the greater of \$50 or one percent of the annual salary of the office sought for each day of delinquency.

2. Late Filing of Pre-Primary, Pre-Election, and special Post-Election Reports

(Business) Days Late:	Settlement Amount:
1	\$100
2	\$150
3	\$200
4	\$250
5	\$300
6	\$350
7	\$400
8	\$450
9	\$500

Wisconsin Ethics Commissioners

Mac Davis | David R. Halbrooks | Robert Kinney | Peg Lautenschlager | Katie McCallum | Pat Strachota

Administrator
Brian M. Bell, MPA

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3. Late Payment of Annual Filing Fees

(Calendar) Days Late:	Settlement Amount:
1-15	Warning
16-45	\$300
46-90	\$500
91 or more	\$800

Fees are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.0102(2). Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400(4). Maximum penalty is \$800.

4. Late/Incomplete Filing of 72-Hour Reports

Late/Incomplete Reporting	Settlement Amount:
5% of the total amount of unreported contribution	

Filing requirements for 72-hour reporting are set by Wis. Stat. §§ 11.0204(7), 11.0304(7), 11.0505, 11.0605, and 11.1001. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400. Maximum penalty is \$500 for each reporting violation.

5. Incomplete Contribution Information

Calendar Days Late:	Settlement Amount:
Up to 30 days from staff contact	Warning
31+ days from staff contact	\$100 plus 10 percent of contributions with incomplete information

Reporting requirements are set by Wis. Stat. §§ 11.0204, 11.0304, 11.0404, 11.0504, 11.0604, 11.0704, 11.0804, and 11.0904. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400. Maximum penalty is \$500 per reporting violation.

6. Cash Balance Discrepancies

Calendar Days Late:	Settlement Amount:
Up to 30 days from staff contact	Warning
31+ days from staff contact	\$100 plus 10% of discrepancy

Reporting requirements are set by Wis. Stat. §§ 11.0204, 11.0304, 11.0404, 11.0504, 11.0604, 11.0704, 11.0804, and 11.0904. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400. Maximum penalty is \$500 per unreported transaction that led to the discrepancy.

7. Exceeding Contributions Limits

Violation Type:	Settlement Amount:
Receiving Excess Contribution	Amount of excess contribution
Furnishing Excess Contribution	If receiving committee forfeits full amount of excess contribution, \$0; else, case-by-case basis

Contribution limits are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1101. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400. Maximum penalties for the receiving committee are \$500, plus surrendering the amount of the excess contribution. Maximum penalties for the contributor are \$500 plus treble the amount of the portion of the contribution that exceeds the maximum. There shall be no violation if excess or improper contributions are returned within 15 days after the filing date for the reporting period in which the contribution is received as provided by Wis. Stat. § 11.1110(2)(b).

8. Prohibited Corporate Contributions

Violation Type:	Settlement Amount:
Receiving Committee	1.5 times amount of contribution
Corporate Contributor	1.5 times amount of contribution

Corporate contributions are limited by Wis. Stat. § 11.1112. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 11.1400(1) and (3). Maximum penalty for the receiving committee is \$500 plus surrendering the amount of the unlawful contribution. Maximum penalty for the corporate contributor is three times the amount of the contribution. There shall be no violation if excess or improper contributions are returned within 15 days after the filing date for the reporting period in which the contribution is received as provided by Wis. Stat. § 11.1110(2)(b).

9. Prohibited Lobbyist Contributions

Violation Type:	Settlement Amount:
Receiving Committee	Return of the contribution to the lobbyist
Lobbyist Contributor	1.5 times amount of contribution, up to \$1,000

Lobbyist contributions are limited by Wis. Stat. § 13.625. Penalties are set by Wis. Stat. § 13.69(2). Maximum penalty for the receiving committee is \$1,000, plus surrendering the amount of the unlawful contribution. Maximum penalty for the lobbyist is \$1,000. Limitation on lobbyist contributions are set out in Chapter 13 but the settlement offer schedule is set out here. There shall be no violation if excess or improper contributions are returned within 15 days after the filing date for the reporting period in which the contribution is received as provided by Wis. Stat. § 11.1110(2)(b).