

WISCONSIN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING

JULY 2020

ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

Name	Title	Appointed By	Term Expires
Paul Connell	Commissioner	Senate Majority Leader	5/1/2024
Mac Davis	Commissioner	Governor	5/1/2021
David Halbrooks	Chair	Assembly Minority Leader	5/1/2021
Scot Ross	Commissioner	Senate Minority Leader	5/1/2024
Pat Strachota	Vice-Chair	Assembly Speaker	5/1/2021
Timothy Van Akkeren	Commissioner	Governor	5/1/2024

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

ETHICS COMMISSION STAFF

Administrator

Daniel Carlton, Jr.

Staff Counsel

David Buerger

Office Manager

Julie Nischik

Program Staff

Richard Bohringer

Harry Broderick

Colette Greve

Adam Harvell

Caroline Russell

TODAY'S WEBINAR TOPICS

- BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS
- Logging into CFIS and Getting Started
- ENTERING TRANSACTIONS
- FILING AND AMENDING REPORTS
- TIPS AND NOTES ON FILING
- TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE REGISTRATION



BASIC INFORMATION ON FILING

WHO - WHAT

- Who must file finance reports?
 - Any committee not claiming <u>exemption</u>.
- What do they have to file?
 - Regular committee reports (CF-2), or conduit (CF-10);
 - Reports of independent expenditures (72-hour reports) (CF-7); and
 - No-activity reports (CF-2A), or conduit (CF-10A).

Links to information on deadlines, contribution limits, committee manual:

https://ethics.wi.gov/Pages/CampaignFinance/CampaignFinance.aspx.

WHEN - WHERE

- When do I have to file reports?
 - January & July Continuing Reports
 - Pre-Primary Report
 - September Report
 - Pre-Election Report
 - Due dates depend on the report. Please see the updated <u>filing calendar</u> for specific due dates.
- Where do I file reports?
 - All reports are filed online in CFIS (<u>cfis.wi.gov</u>).

Committees must continue to file reports after the date of the election they participated in. Certain committees may request an exemption from filing reports, or request termination.

WIS. STAT. §§ 11.0102, 11.1103.



Which of these items are **not** considered contributions?

- a. Check of \$500 from Joe Smith;
- b. The time spent by volunteers that participated in the committee's get out the vote day, knocking on doors and passing out literature;
- Food and beverages purchased by the chair and treasurer of the PAC for an event the PAC held; or
- d. The pamphlets that a member of the committee, who owns a printing business, printed for your committee free of charge.

Which of these items are **not** considered contributions?

Answer:

b. The time spent by volunteers that participated in the committee's get out the vote day, knocking on doors and passing out campaign literature.

If an individual is not specifically compensated for services they provide to a committee, those services are not considered a contribution.

WIS. STAT. § 11.0101(8)(b)1.

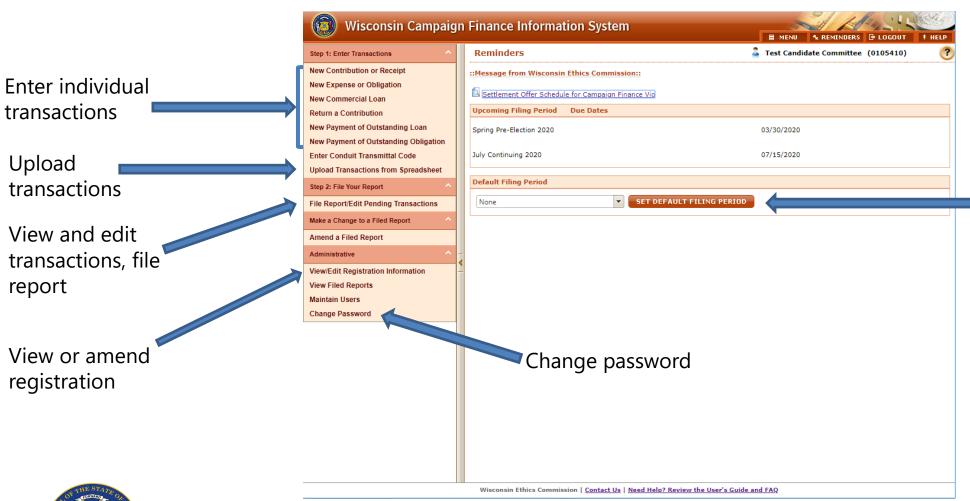


LOGGING INTO CFIS AND GETTING STARTED

LOGGING INTO CFIS (CFIS.WI.GOV)



CFIS OVERVIEW



Select default filing period





ENTERING TRANSACTIONS

WHAT IS A CONTRIBUTION?

Contribution

- Gifts, loans, or transfers of money to a committee;
- Transfer of funds between registered committees;
- Tangible personal property or services transferred to the committee; and
- A ticket purchase for a fundraising event, or a sale of merchandise.

WIS. STATS. § 11.0101(8)(a), (b)

Not a Contribution

- Volunteer services;
- Costs of preparing and transmitting personal correspondences;
- Interest earned on an account OR rebates or awards from a debit or credit card;
- Loan from a commercial institution made in the regular course of business;
- New stories, commentaries, editorials, etc.;
- Reuse of materials from a previous campaign if materials were previously reported; or
- Cost of invitations, food, and beverages *only if* event is held in a private residence on behalf of a candidate committee.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

- In-kind contributions are goods, services, or property offered to the candidate's committee free of charge or at less than usual cost, or payment to a third party to purchase goods, services, or property on behalf of the candidate.
- When reporting in-kind contributions, use the fair market value of the good, service, or property.
- In-kind contributions must be itemized when they are reported and are added to contribution amounts received in monetary form (cash, check, or credit/debit) for the purpose of calculating contribution limits.
 - Example: Jane Smith provides your committee with \$50 in donated goods and a check for \$200, her total contribution for the purpose of determining compliance with contribution limits is \$250.

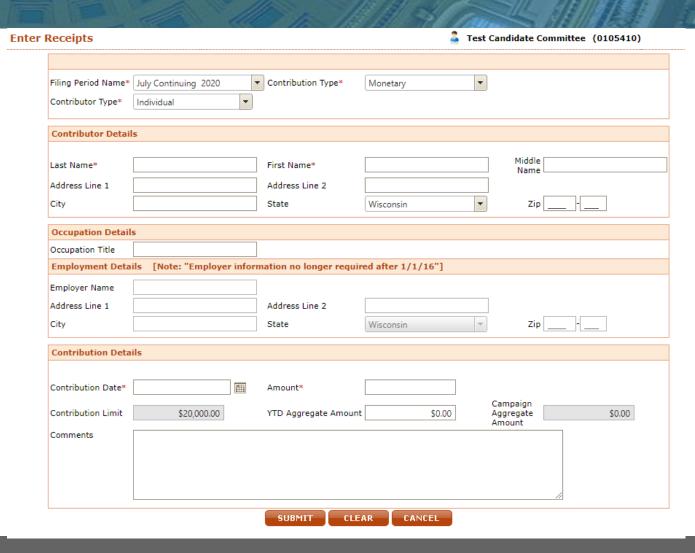
WIS. STATS. § <u>11.0101(8)(a)2</u>, <u>11.1109</u>

ENTERING TRANSACTIONS - RECEIPTS

- Contributions require: date received, complete name and address of contributor, and amount of contribution for all contributions. Additional information:
 - Occupation of all individuals giving over \$200 in a calendar year; and
 - Anonymous donations (donor not known) limited to \$10 or less per donor.

WIS. STAT. § 11.1108.

- Loans are contributions and are subject to contribution limits.
- In-kind contributions are reported as both a receipt (who) and expense (what) to prevent a cash balance discrepancy.





WHAT IS A DISBURSEMENT?

Disbursement

- An expenditure by the committee from the committee's depository account;
- A transfer of tangible personal property or services by the committee;
- Transfer of funds to another committee; and
- Purchasing a ticket for an event for another committee, regardless of whether the ticket is used to attend the event.

WIS. STATS. § 11.0101(10)(a), (b)

Not a Disbursement

- A nominal fee paid for a communication to the general public;
- News stories, commentary, editorials...unless a committee owns the medium in which the news story, commentary, or editorial appears; or
- A communication or Internet activity by an individual acting in his or her own behalf, or acting in behalf of another person if the individual is not compensated specifically for those services...

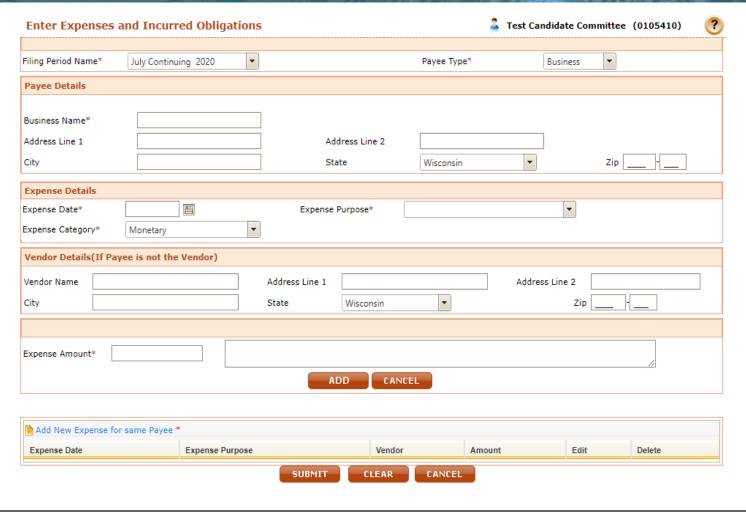
OBLIGATIONS

- An obligation is an express agreement by the candidate committee to make a disbursement. This includes the following:
 - A loan or loan guarantee;
 - A promise to purchase, rent, or lease tangible personal property; or
 - A promise to pay for a service that has been or will be performed.
- Example of an obligation:
 - Your candidate committee needs pamphlets printed for canvassing. You go to your local
 printer and provide them with the template to be printed and are expected to pay when
 you pick up your printed pamphlets. This is an obligation that you have incurred.

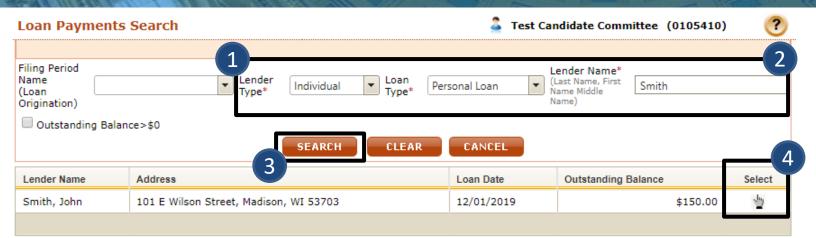
WIS. STAT. § 11.0101(23)

ENTERING TRANSACTIONS: EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS

- Information required for all disbursements over \$20:
 - Date disbursement was made;
 - Name and address of the person to whom the disbursement was made; and
 - Purpose of the disbursement.
- Small amounts of \$20 or less may be reported as Unitemized (disbursements only).

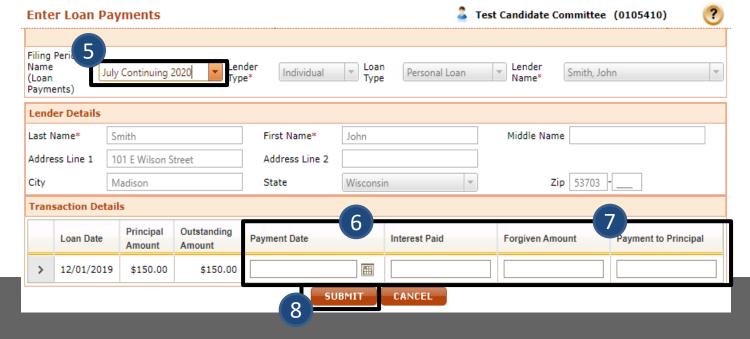


ENTERING TRANSACTIONS - LOAN PAYMENTS



- 1. Select Lender and Loan Type.
- 2. Enter Lender Name.
- 3. Click Search.
- 4. Select the loan.

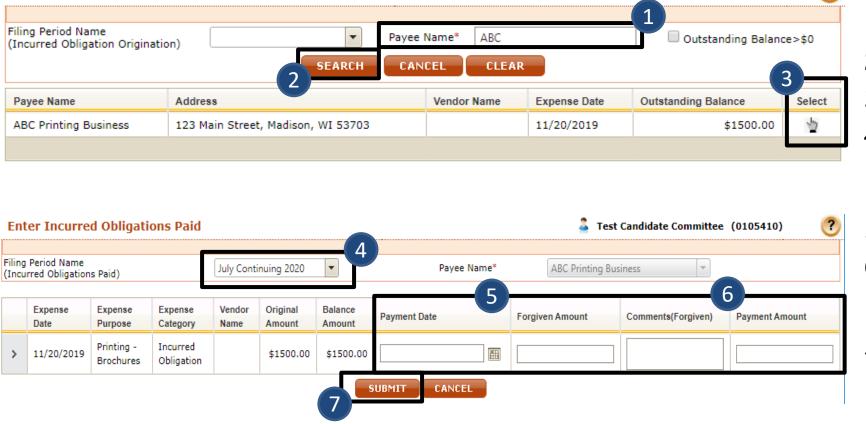
- 5. Select the filing period in which the loan payment occurred.
- 6. Enter the payment date.
- 7. Enter the amount that was paid in interest, paid to principal, or forgiven.
- 8. Click submit.





ENTERING TRANSACTIONS – INCURRED OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

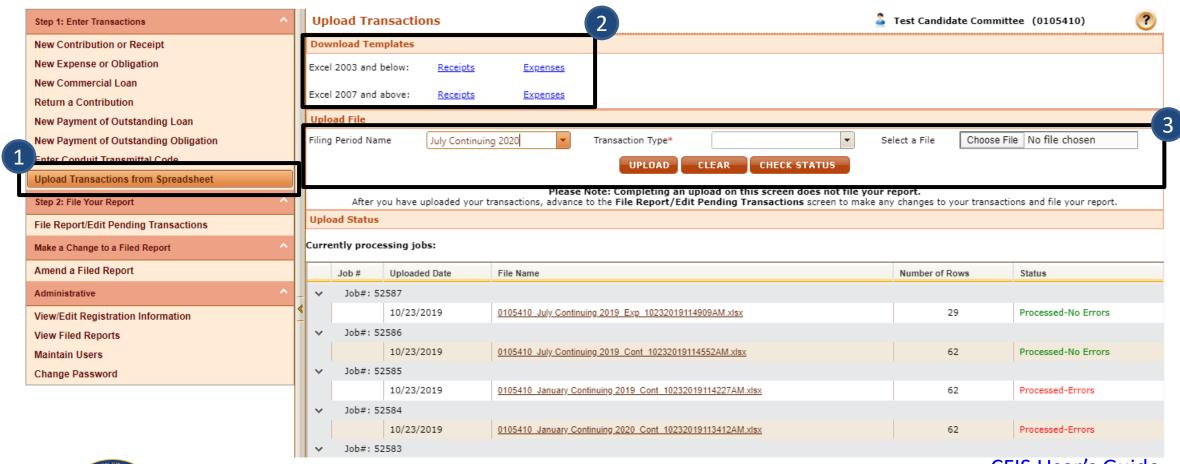
Test Candidate Committee (0105410)



- Enter Payee Name.
- 2. Click Search.
- 3. Select the obligation.
- Select the filing period in which the payment occurred.
- 5. Enter the payment date.
- Enter the amount that was paid and/or the amount forgiven.
- 7. Click submit.

Incurred Obligations Paid Search

ENTERING TRANSACTIONS - UPLOADING



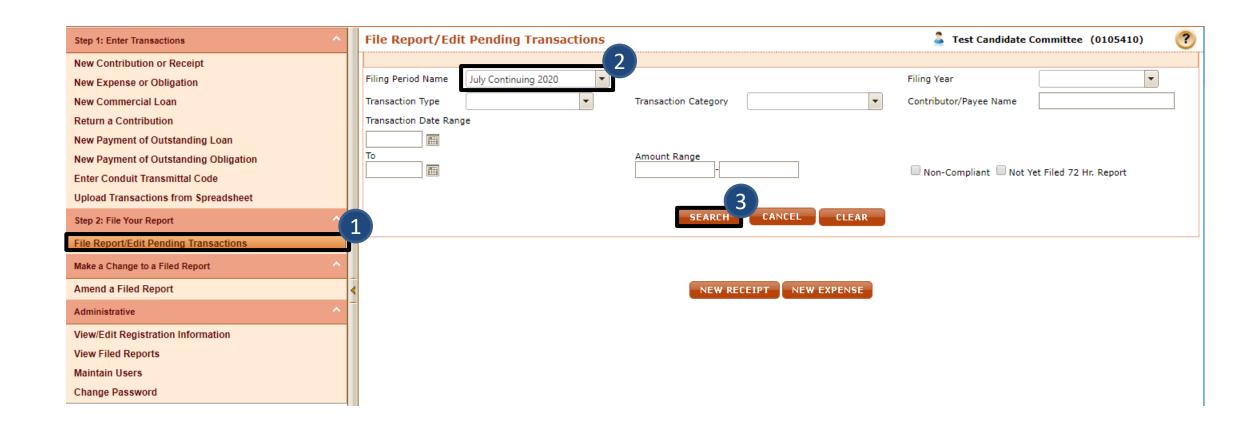
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CFIS User's Guide



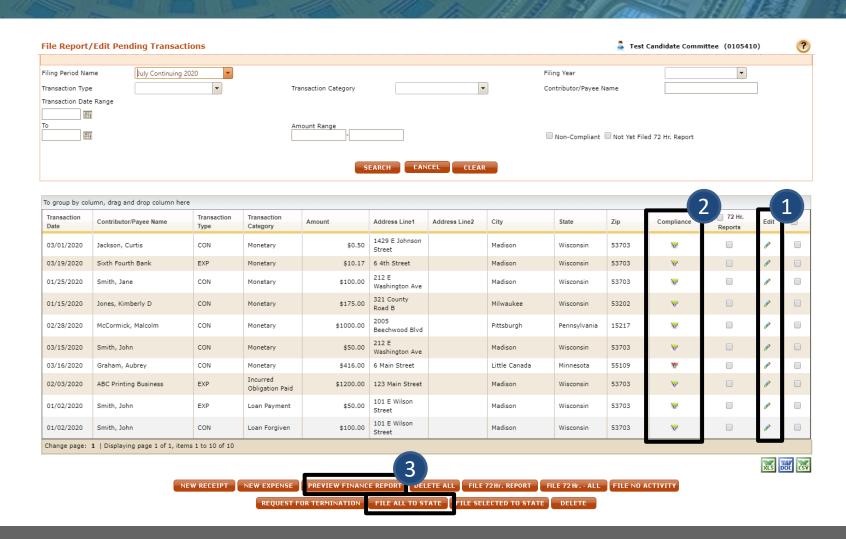
FILING THE REPORT

FILING THE REPORT - REVIEWING TRANSACTIONS



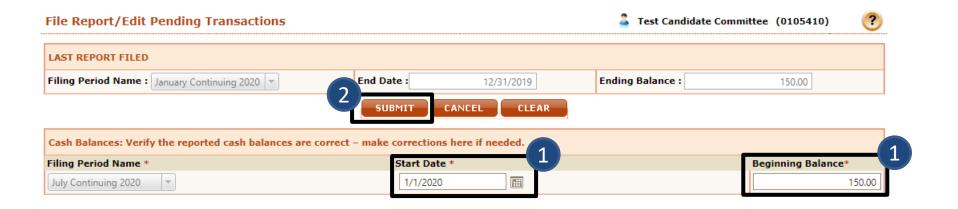
FILING THE REPORT - REVIEW TRANSACTIONS

- 1. Review all transactions. You can edit individual transactions by clicking the pencil icon in the Edit column.
- 2. Check the Compliance column. You can click on red flags to see why a transaction is flagged.
- 3. Click Preview Finance Report OR File All to State.





FILING THE REPORT - PREVIEW



:: Preview Finance Report ::								
Print the following Rep	orts 3							
CF-2	VIEW / PRINT							



- 1. Enter Start Date and Beginning Balance.
- 2. Click Submit.
- 3. Click View/Print.
- 4. Click File All to State.

FILING THE REPORT - AUTHORIZATION

File Report/Edit Pending Transactions

- 1. Enter Start Date.
- 2. Enter Beginning and Ending Balances.
- 3. Fill in authorization section*.
- 4. Click Submit.

Comments: Choose File No file chosen Attachment: AUTHORIZATION Committee ID* 0105410 0105410's Password* Committee PIN* Individual submitting this document: o I am the individual listed above and by clicking the submit button, I certify that I gamined this report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete. CANCEL CLEAR LAST REPORT FILED Filing Period Name: January Continuing 2020 End Date: Ending Balance : 12/31/2019 150.00 Cash Balances: Verify the reported cash balances are correct @ make of ions here if needed. Filing Period Name * Start Date * Beginning Balance* **Ending Balance *** 150.00 July Continuing 2020 1/1/2020 1,798.21

Test Candidate Committee (0105410)

*PIN is listed on the committee's registration statement



72-Hour Reporting

Candidate, political party, and legislative campaign committees

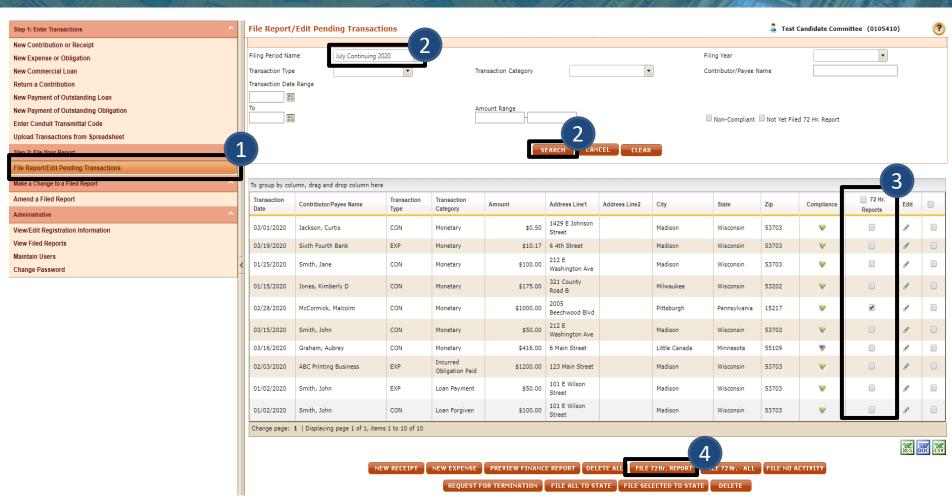
- Reports must be filed for contributions of \$1,000 or more received in the 14-day period before a primary or election within 72 hours of receipt.
- Required for single contributions of \$1,000 or more AND for multiple contributions totaling \$1,000 or more.
- Contributions from the candidate to his or her own committee are included in this reporting requirement.

PACs, IE Committees, and Other Persons

- Reports must be filed if: Spending \$2,500 or more in aggregate on non-coordinated express advocacy within 60 days of a primary or an election in which the candidate identified in the advocacy is participating.
- Required to be filed no later than 72 hours after making the disbursement

FILING A 72-HOUR REPORT

- 1. Go to File Report/Edit Pending Transactions.
- 2. Select Filing Period and click Search.
- 3. Select the transaction(s).
- 4. Click File 72Hr. Report.
- 5. Complete the oath and have your signature notarized and send the signed notarized copy to the Commission (for independent expenditures only).

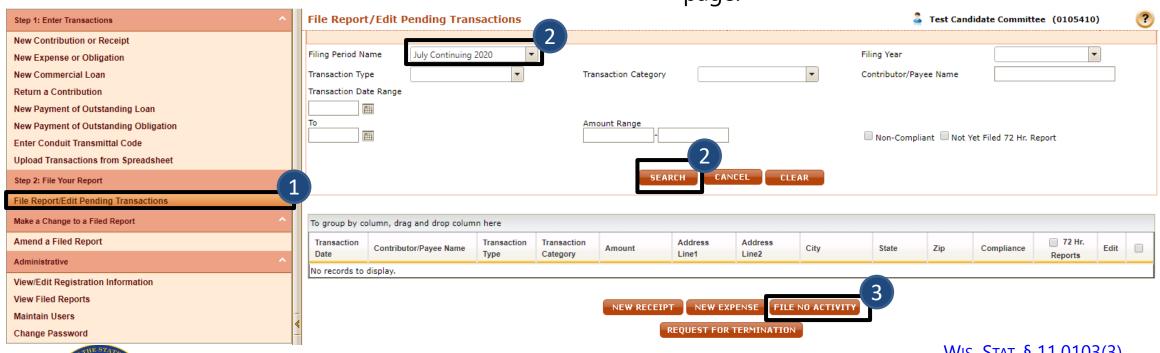




FILING A NO-ACTIVITY REPORT

If a committee receives no contributions, makes no disbursements and incurs no obligations during a reporting period, the registrant may file a "No Activity Report".

- 1. Go to File Report/Edit Pending Transactions.
- 2. Enter Filing Period Name and click Search.
- 3. Click File No Activity at the bottom of the page.



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WIS. STAT. § 11.0103(3)

CONDUIT FILING

- Conduits have a different menu than other registered committees and their filing will look a bit different.
- Transmittal letters
 - Provided to receiving committee along with the contribution.
- Filing reports
 - Do not need to report cash balances.

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Only report the start date for the report.



GENERATING TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

To generate transmittal letters, select the appropriate filing period name and receiving registrant, then click "Search."

Filing Period N	ame	Fall Pre-Prin	nary 2018	•	Receiving Reg	istrant			*	Filing Yea	er			•		
Transaction Ty	pe			*	Transaction Ca	stegory			 	Contribut	tor/Payee	Name				
Transaction Da	ransaction Date Range															
Ē	***															
To Amount Range Mon-Compliant Transmittal Letter Not Generated																
					☐ Segregated Fund											
										☐ View All Transactions						
Note: Please select Receiving Registrant to generate Transmittal Letter! SEARCH CANCEL CLEAR																
To assume has as	-1		-l b													
To group by co	olumn, drag	and drop c	olumn nere													
Transaction Date	Contributo Name	r/Payee	Transaction Type		Receiving Committee	Amount	Address Line1	Address Line2	City	State	Zip	Segregated Fund Flag	Compliance	Transmittal Letter	Edit	
No records to display.																

FILING REPORTS

To file reports, select the appropriate filing period, click the check box for "View All Transactions," so that all transactions are filed in the report, and then click "Search".

Filing Period Name	Fall Pre-Primary 2018	▼ Re	eceiving Registrant		•		Filing Year			•				
Transaction Type		▼ Tra	ansaction Category		•	•	Contributor/Payee	e Name						
Transaction Date Rang	e													
To III														
<u> </u>	Amount range							☐ Non-Compliant ☐ Transmittal Letter Not Generated						
							Segregated Fund							
			□ View All Transactions											
Note: Please select Receiving Registrant to generate Transmittal Letter! SEARCH CANCEL CLEAR														
To group by column, drag and drop column here														
Transaction Contri Date Name	utor/Payee Transaction Type		ceiving mmittee Amount		Address .ine2 Cit	ty S	State Zip	Segregated Fund Flag	Compliance	Transmittal Letter	Edit			
No records to display.														

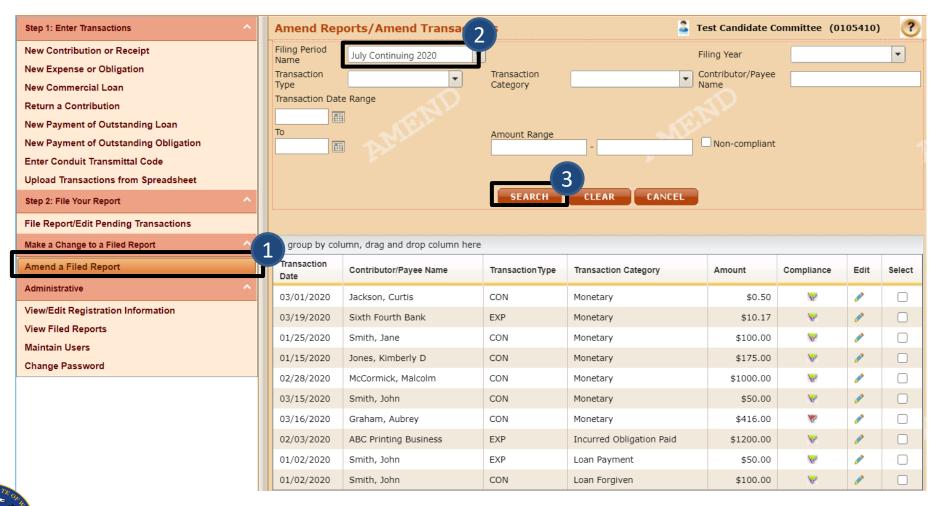
CONDUIT FILING

- No cash balance is reported.
- Only start date of filing period is required.
- Not required to file Pre-Primary or Pre-Election Reports.



AMENDING A FILED REPORT

AMENDING A REPORT



State of Wisconsin
Ethics Commission

AMENDING A REPORT

To group by column, drag and drop column here

Transaction Date	Contributor/Payee Name	Transaction Type	Transaction Category	Amount	Compliance	Edit	Select
03/01/2020	Jackson, Curtis	CON	Monetary	\$0.50	∀	0	
03/19/2020	Sixth Fourth Bank	EXP	Monetary	\$10.17	₩	0	
01/25/2020	Smith, Jane	CON	Monetary	\$100.00	\		
01/15/2020	Jones, Kimberly D	CON	Monetary	\$175.00	₩	1	
02/28/2020	McCormick, Malcolm	CON	Monetary	\$1000.00	V		
03/15/2020	Smith, John	CON	Monetary	\$50.00	₩	0	
03/16/2020	Graham, Aubrey	CON	Monetary	\$416.00	*	₽	
02/03/2020	ABC Printing Business	EXP	Incurred Obligation Paid	\$1200.00	₩	0	
01/02/2020	Smith, John	EXP	Loan Payment	\$50.00	\		
01/02/2020	Smith, John	CON	Loan Forgiven	\$100.00	₩	0	

Add new transaction(s)

Change page: 1 | Displaying page 1 of 1, items 1 to 10 of 10

Delete existing XLS DOC CSV transaction

Edit existing

transaction(s)

NEW RECEIPT

NEW EXPENSE

NEW INCURRED OBLIGATION PAID

NEW LOAN PAYMENT

NEW COMMERCIAL JAN

NEW RETURN RECEIPT

PREVIEW FINANCE REPORT

FILE ALL TO STATE

DELETE



State of Wisconsin **Ethics Commission**

AMENDING A REPORT

Transaction Date	Contributor/Pa	ayee Name	Transaction Type	Transaction Category	Amount	Compliance	Edit	Select			
04/15/2020	Fenty, Robyn	R	CON	Monetary	\$45.0) V	0				
03/01/2020	Jackson, Curt	tis	CON	Monetary	\$0.5) V	0				
03/19/2020	Sixth Fourth	Bank	EXP	Monetary	\$10.1	7					
01/25/2020	Smith, Jane		CON	Monetary	\$100.0) V	0				
01/15/2020	Jones, Kimbe	erly D	CON	Monetary	\$175.0) V	0				
02/28/2020	McCormick, M	Malcolm	CON	Monetary	\$1000.0) V	0				
03/15/2020	Smith, John		CON	Monetary	\$50.0) V	1				
03/16/2020	Graham, Aub	orey	CON	Monetary	\$416.0	D 👺	0				
02/03/2020	ABC Printing	Business	EXP	Incurred Obligation Paid	d \$1200.0) V	0				
01/02/2020	Smith, John		EXP	Loan Payment	\$50.0) V	0				
01/02/2020	Smith, John		CON	Loan Forgiven	\$100.0) V	0				
Change page: 1	Displaying pa	age 1 of 1, items 1	to 11 of 11								
NEW	NEW RECEIPT NEW EXPENSE NEW INCURRED OBLIGATION PAID NEW LOAN PAYMENT NEW COMMERCIAL LOAN										

PREVIEW FINANCE REPORT

FILE ALL TO STATE



NEW RETURN RECEIPT



What date should be used when reporting contributions?

- a. The date the contribution was deposited in the bank account;
- b. The date on the check; or
- c. The date the contribution was received.

Answer: c. The date the contribution was received.

The date of a contribution is the day the check was received and is under control of the committee, unless it was returned or donated with 15 days of receipt.

WIS. STAT. § 11.0103(2)(a)1.

What date should be used when reporting disbursements?

- a. The date the disbursement comes out of the bank account; or
- b. The date the disbursement is made.

Answer: b. The date the disbursement is made.

The date reported for a disbursement should be the date a donation was made to another committee, date something was purchased for your committee, or the date on which an obligation was incurred.

WIS. STAT. § 11.0204(1)(a)8-9.



FILING TIPS AND NOTES

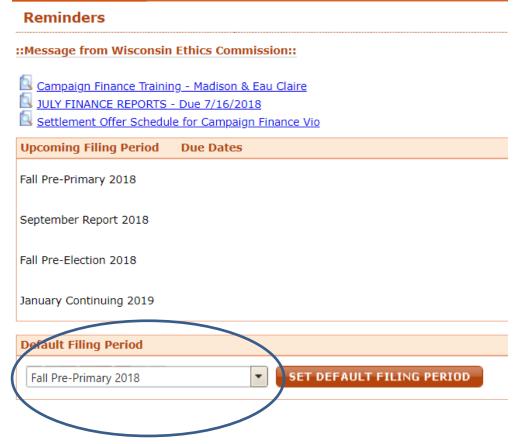
TIPS FOR COMPLETING ACCURATE REPORTS

Set your default filing period to avoid entering transactions into the

wrong period.

 This is in the reminders section (top right corner of home screen).







TIPS FOR COMPLETING AN ACCURATE REPORT

- All in-kind contributions received require an in-kind expense for the same amount;
- Beginning cash should always be the same as the ending cash of the previous report (\$0 for first report filed);
- Ending cash should agree with the reconciled bank balance as of the closing date of the report;
- There should be no gaps between reports and no overlap contributions and expenses are only reported on one report (72-hour reports of independent expenditures are an exception); and
- Check for duplicate transactions before filing the report.

TIPS FOR ACCURATE RECORDS

- Scan or photocopy all checks received.
- At events such as fundraisers or fair booths, have a reliable individual
 assigned to recording each contributor's full name, address, and occupation
 when contributions are \$200 or more.
- Create a system to track contribution amounts for each contributor to avoid accepting or making contributions in excess of the limits.



COMMITTEE TERMINATION

TERMINATION OF A COMMITTEE



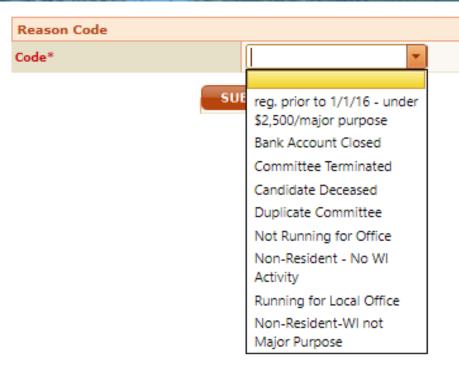
A committee can terminate its registration if it:

- Will no longer engage in financial activity;
- Files a final report showing that the cash balance of the committee is zero; and
- Completes a termination request in CFIS.

To file a termination request:

- Go to "File Report/Edit Pending Transactions" in the CFIS menu, Choose the current filing period name from the drop down and click "SEARCH."
- 2. Verify that all transactions show the committee's cash balance as zero by previewing the report.
- 3. Click "Request for Termination."

TERMINATION OF A COMMITTEE



- After your termination request is filed staff will review your request to terminate and contact you if your committee cannot be terminated for any reason.
- Once your termination request is approved, you will receive one final email to your committee stating that your registration status has been changed.

4. Choose a termination reason code and click "SUBMIT."



TERMINATION: DISPOSAL OF RESIDUAL FUNDS

- A committee that wishes to terminate can dispose of its residual funds by:
 - Repaying outstanding loans, or receiving forgiveness for them;
 - Returning contributions in an amount not more than the original (treasurer may choose which contributions to return);
 - Donating to any tax-exempt charitable organization or the Common School Fund;
 - Transferring money to another committee within contribution limits; or
 - Using any combination of the above.



Where to get more information

Committee resources:

- <u>Campaign Finance: Overview</u>: links to committee manuals and general information including contribution limits, filing calendars, and attribution/disclaimer requirements
- CFIS Manuals and Frequently Asked Questions
- Wisconsin Ethics Commission website (https://ethics.wi.gov)

Wisconsin Ethics Commission staff: campaignfinance@wi.gov or (608) 266-8123

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