Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance Guide

Candidates on the municipal level without a committee

OCPF recommends that all candidates form a campaign committee, especially if money is raised or spent. However, the law does not require a candidate to form a committee. This guide is for municipal candidates who file locally with their clerk or local election official.

If I don't form a committee, do I still need to file reports?

Every candidate who appears on a town or city ballot must file campaign finance reports, even if no money was raised or spent. The existence of a committee is not a factor.

Is there an advantage to having a committee?

OCPF highly recommends forming a committee, so more than one person is involved in the raising and spending of money. Forming a committee also decreases confusion in the community. OCPF frequently receives complaints that candidates are running for office but have not yet formed committees, because they are candidates only.

Are there any OCPF recommendations?

Even if you don't form a committee, **OCPF highly recommends filing the M101 form with your municipal clerk or local election official**, with "candidate only" written at the top of the form (leave the treasurer and chair sections blank). This courtesy informs the community that you're running, but not forming a committee.

If I'm an appointed public employee, do I have to have a committee?

OCPF highly recommends forming a committee for all <u>candidates who are also appointed public employees</u>. Public employees are prohibited from soliciting or receiving funds for any political purpose. A committee raises all money for a public employee who also runs for office.

Additional Resources

<u>M101 organizational form</u>

<u>M102 campaign finance form</u>

<u>12-page guide for municipal candidates who file locally</u>

<u>5-minute tutorial for candidates who file locally</u>

<u>Tutorial for candidates who spend their own personal funds on their campaigns</u>