

Did you know?

Friday, August 20, 2021

Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions (FORM DOI) FAQ'S

1. **What is a Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contribution form?** This is a document that is filed before a candidate running for office, can accept or spend any money toward that campaign.
2. **Is the Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions the same as the Form DOI?** Yes.
3. **After I file the Form DOI, can I start spending and accepting campaign funds?** Yes. As soon as the Form DOI is filed, a filer can start accepting and spending campaign funds.
4. **If I am self-funding my campaign, do I still have to file the Form DOI?** Yes. The law states "A candidate may not provide a personal loan to his or her campaign prior to filing a Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions." The law also states that self-funded campaign contributions and expenditures cannot be accepted or made prior to the filing of a DOI.
5. **If I am running for state-level office, where do I file the Form DOI?** The the Form DOI has to be filed electronically with the Commission in Atlanta. You can file the Form DOI here <https://efile.ethics.ga.gov/#/index>.
6. **If I am running for a county or municipal-level office, where do I file the Form DOI?** The Form DOI has to be filed with the local filing officer in that jurisdiction. For county-level filers, the form has to be filed with the County Election Superintendent. For municipal-level filers, the form has to be filed with the City Clerk.
7. **I am running for state-level office, are there reports due now that I filed the Form DOI?** Yes. Candidates running for statewide or state-level office are required to electronically file campaign contribution disclosure reports with the Commission following the schedule here <https://ethics.ga.gov/file-schedule/> as soon as they file the Form DOI.
8. **I am running for local-level office, are there reports due now that I filed the Form DOI?** Yes; No and Maybe. Candidates running for county or municipal-level office can file a document called an Affidavit of a Candidate's Intent Not to Exceed \$2,500 in contributions and/or expenditures. Once the Affidavit is filed, if a local filer stays under the threshold of \$2,500 in contributions and/or expenditures during their election cycle, they will not have to file campaign contribution disclosure reports during that election cycle. If a local filer does not file the affidavit, they have to file campaign contribution disclosure reports following the filing schedule here <https://ethics.ga.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Filing-Schedule-for-Local-Filers-2.15.2021.pdf> as soon as they file the Form DOI.
9. **What is an election cycle?** An election cycle is the time period between the day after a November General Election to the next November General Election for when that filer's office will appear on the ballot (i.e. a term of office).
10. **Can a candidate running for statewide or state-level office file the Affidavit of a Candidate's Intent Not to Exceed \$2,500 in Contributions and/or Expenditures?** No. A statewide or state-

level filer has to file all the campaign contribution disclosure reports listed on their filing schedule.

11. **I am a statewide or state-level incumbent. Do I have to file a new Form DOI every year I qualify if I am running for the same office?** No. The Form DOI you filed when you originally ran for office is still valid if you are qualifying for the same office again. If you are seeking a different office, you must file a DOI for that new office.
12. **I am a county or municipal-level incumbent. Do I have to file a new Form DOI every year I qualify if I am running for the same office?** No. The Form DOI you filed when you originally ran for office is still valid if you are qualifying for the same office again. If you are seeking a different office, you must file a DOI for that new office.
13. **I am a statewide or state-level incumbent. I want to run for a different office. Do I need to file a new Form DOI.** Yes. Whenever a filer wants to run for a different office, a new Form DOI has to be on file.
14. **I am a county or municipal-level incumbent. I want to run for a different office. Do I need to file a new Form DOI.** Yes. Whenever a filer wants to run for a different office, a new Form DOI has to be on file.
15. **Does the Form DOI have to be notarized?** No.
16. **Can I file more than one Form DOI at a time?** Yes, you are permitted to raise funds for multiple offices; however, you are restricted to using any funds raised for the specific campaign that the contribution was made. For example, funds donated for a mayoral race, cannot be used in a subsequent judicial race.
17. **I am a statewide or state-level filer. If I file my Form DOI with the wrong jurisdiction, will I have to file another Form DOI with the correct jurisdiction?** Yes, the Commission does not permit the backdating of DOIs and does not recognize improperly or incorrectly filed documents.
18. **I am a county or municipal-level filer. If I file my Form DOI with the wrong jurisdiction, will I have to file another Form DOI with the correct jurisdiction?** Yes, the Commission does not permit the backdating of DOIs and does not recognize improperly or incorrectly filed documents.
19. **Do I have to put the full office name of the Form DOI?** Yes, you have to list the correct legal name of the office (including district, post or incumbent as is pertinent to the office being sought).
20. **Is there a fee to file the Form DOI?** No.

