

We hear you've decided to run for office...

• Step 1: Introduce yourself

You are a candidate once you publicly announce your candidacy, raise or spend money on your campaign, or **file during declaration week (May 4-8, 2026)**.

Within two weeks, register your campaign and file your personal financial affairs statement (F-1). See instructions and exceptions to this rule in the link to the right.



Registration and reporting basics



• Step 2: Consider your (reporting) options

Choose **mini** or **full** reporting. Unlike full-reporting, mini-reporting campaigns can raise or spend **no more than \$7,000, or \$500 from each contributor** without filing regular reports with the PDC (but must maintain records.)

Choose wisely! Mini reporting campaigns that exceed limits may face enforcement action. Switching to full reporting requires PDC approval and retroactive reporting.

• Step 3: Learn your responsibilities

Full-reporting campaigns must regularly report contributions and expenditures and abide by contribution limits, and all campaigns must follow political advertising rules and other requirements under **RCW 29B** and **WAC 390**.

“The public’s right to know of the financing of political campaigns and lobbying and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates far outweighs any right that these matters remain secret and private.”

RCW 29B

• Step 4: Know your resources

Sign up today for one of the PDC’s free online training:

- Disclosure 101: Candidates and Committees
- Understanding the F-1
- ORCA filing system demonstration
- Lunch and learn events



Training and resources for campaigns

