

Independent Expenditures – SEEC Filing Requirements

This is a summary of the requirements. Filers should refer to the law and rules directly when making an IE.

Reporting

All Committees report on the 10th of the month for the period ending the last day of the previous month, if they exceed \$200 in contributions or expenditures since the last report.

A committee that makes an IE reports that activity within 5 business days once they spend \$100 or more in the aggregate on a single candidate or ballot issue.

IE makers must file the 21-day C-4 and a 7-day C-4, and a post-election report on the 10th of the month after the election. Continue filing on the tenth of the month only if additional IEs are made, unless otherwise required to continue filing (as a Continuing committee, for example).

21 days before the election

During the final 21 days, an IE of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must be reported by 4:30 pm the next day. If the IE of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate was made prior to the 21st day and not yet reported, it must be reported by 4:30pm on the 21st day.

Copy of Ad

Advertisements must be delivered to the SEEC within two business days of dissemination, if the IE maker expects that they will be viewed or heard by 1,000 or more individuals in a calendar year. The method of dissemination must also be disclosed as well as an estimate of the expected quantity. This requirement only applies to an individual spending \$100 of his/her own funds, or anyone spending any amount of the funds of others.

Certificate of Independence

Each person and each officer of the committee or entity that makes an IE must file with their report (C-4, or Special Report), a notarized affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury, stating that the IE was made without consultation, collusion or cooperation with any candidate, political committee, officers, agents of that candidate or committee.

Independent expenditures cannot use the political advertising or campaign materials of the campaign they support or oppose.

(continued)

Independent Expenditures (continued)

Political Advertising

Under City law, all IE advertising must include sponsor ID (“paid for by, or “sponsored by” name and address of committee). And must include the following language: "NOTICE TO VOTERS (Required by law): This advertisement is not authorized or approved by any candidate. It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)." If the ad is made by a non-individual, it must include the Top Five contributors of the past year. The sponsor ID and additional language must be clearly spoken on any broadcast advertisement (tv, radio, robocall).

State Law

To the extent that City law conflicts with State law on sponsor id, we typically defer to the state regulations. This applies to the language the State requires in place of our “NOTICE TO VOTERS...” State law requires: “No candidate authorized this ad. It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)” The Top Five list is made up of the five persons who contributed in excess of \$700 in the past year. State law also requires IE advertisers to include the name of the individual or entity who created the political committee making the IE advertisement. Please refer to RCW 42.17A and the PDC to ensure compliance with State law on sponsor ID.

Reference

[SMC 2.04.270](#) **Independent expenditures; contributions to out-of-state committees—Reports.**

[SMC 2.04.275](#) **Certification of independent expenditures—Special reports of late independent expenditures.**

[SMC 2.04.290](#). **B. Identification of contributions and communications.**

[Rule 8](#) **Independent Expenditures**