



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN

M-95-01

DIRECTOR

TO: City and Town Clerks and Election Commissioners
FROM: Michael J. Sullivan, Director *MJS*
SUBJECT: Chapter 292 of the Acts of 1994
DATE: January 10, 1995

On January 9, 1995 Governor Weld signed into law Chapter 292 of the Acts of 1994, which further amends the state's campaign finance laws.

This legislation makes technical clarifications to the changes in the campaign finance law which took effect on January 1, 1995. There are two provisions, in particular, which are important to candidates and political committees which file campaign finance reports with your office.

I. Year-End Reports

The first changes the due date for the year-end filing of campaign finance reports from January 10 to January 20, effective immediately. Therefore, candidates and political committees have until January 20 to file their year-end reports with your office.

This change is particularly important in light of the civil penalty provision enacted last year which provides for a \$10 per day fine for each report which is filed late. Although you may now refer non-filers to OCPF for enforcement of the penalty after you have taken the steps required by M.G.L. c. 55, ss. 28 and 29, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 1994 (see memorandum M-94-07 from OCPF dated December 6, 1994), **referrals may only be made for candidates or committees which fail to file by January 20 and do not respond to notice from you within the allotted 10 days.**

In addition, you will need to correct two forms which you may have or may be receiving to reflect the change from January 10 to January 20. The first is Form CPF M9 (Statement of Credit Card Activity); the second is Form CPF 102-0 (Campaign Finance Affidavit). If you have any other forms or publications from OCPF which carry the January 10 filing date, please correct these as well.

II. Money Orders

The second provision involves a requirement that all contributions in excess of \$50 to candidates or political committees be made by personal check. No longer will money orders, bank checks, cashier checks or any other negotiable instrument other than a check be allowed for contributions in excess of \$50. As has been the case, cash contributions may not exceed \$50.

Please make your candidates and committees aware of these changes as soon as possible. If you have any questions on this or any other campaign finance matter please do not hesitate to call this office.