

Fair Elections Fund

Clean up Bill



Denver
Votes!

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Overview of items within this bill

- Update and alignment of filing calendar – 2023 filing calendars and updates to overall filings going forward
- Update of qualifying period and realignment with the petition deadline from Feb 13 to Jan 19th
- Update language for Political Action Committees (PACs)
- Clarify unclear limits on contributions from Small Donor Committees
- Updates and changes to debate requirements



Updates Campaign Finance Calendar

Problem

- 2021's Referred Question 2H moved the election date but did not change reporting deadlines
- Current Semi-Annual reporting deadlines cause the reporting period to end on the same day the report is due, generating significant frustration from committees
- Issue committee pre-election reporting is confusing and limits public transparency. Large donations from outside groups often not reported until after the election

Solution

- Update 2023 reporting calendar to reflect new election date. Add additional report in between general and runoff elections
- Standardize candidate reporting for non-election years to bi-annual reporting with 15 days to prepare report
- Issue committees file additional pre-election reports, limits outside groups from hiding spending until after election day.



Update of qualification deadline

Problem

- Moving the petition deadline allowed committees to qualify after petitions were submitted
- Debates will start prior to certification and will cause issues within the debate requirement

Solution

- Align the qualification period with the petition deadline of Jan 19th
- Allows for debate sponsors to understand who is an FEF qualified candidate earlier within the process to set dates



Improves Ability to Successfully Administer FEF Debate Requirement

Problem

- C&R's office must sanction an unmanageable number of debates in an unreasonable timeline
- Up to 30 debates held in a 15-day window before the general election, in addition to up to 14 debates before the runoff
- Lack of clarity regarding what organizations may sponsor debates

Solution

- Drop the number of C&R's sanctioned FEF debates to up to 15 debates before the general, maintains up to 14 debates before the runoff
- Debate window expanded based on mailing deadline and earlier certification of ballot at 60 and not 55 days.
- Clarify sponsorship requirements
- Local organizations may still host as many additional debates as they wish, but the C&R's office does not need to sanction them



PAC and SDC Changes

PAC / SDC updates

- Adding clarifying language to update political committee to Political Action Committee and Small Donor Committee
- Limiting lack of clarity within the law

SDC Donation Limits

- Adds a visual chart to the SDC donation limits
- Limiting misunderstood limits from committee