

ORDINANCE NO. 2680

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT ADDING SECTIONS 2181-15 THROUGH 2181-18 TO CHAPTER 1 OF
DIVISION 18 OF TITLE II OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CODE RELATING TO
ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS AND STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC
INTERESTS**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2181-15 of Chapter 1 of Division 18 of Title II of the Humboldt County Code is added as follows:

2181-15. Electronic filing; findings and purpose.

- (a) The Board finds that public access to campaign disclosure information is a vital and integral component of a fully informed electorate. Transparency in campaign financing is critical in order to maintain public trust and support of the political process. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (b) State law requires candidates, persons supporting or opposing ballot measures and certain other types of political committees to file campaign finance statements with the Registrar of Voters detailing the sources of contributions and manner of expenditure of contributions. Government Code, Section 84615, authorizes local jurisdictions to require the filing of campaign statements and reports solely in an electronic form, with a specified exemption. The purpose of these laws is to assist voters in making informed electoral decisions and to assist in ensuring compliance with campaign contributions laws. In any instance in which the original statement, report, or other document is required to be filed with the Secretary of State and a copy of that statement, report, or other documents is required to be filed with the local government agency, the filer is exempt from filing the statement electronically as provided by Government Code, Section 84615. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (c) Frequently, these disclosure reports are lengthy. Moreover, hundreds of such reports may be filed with the Registrar of Voters office each reporting period. It is difficult for members of the public, the media and election officials efficiently to review and compare these statements. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (d) The Board makes the following findings in support of requiring that political committees and candidates that meet certain financial thresholds file their campaign statements electronically:

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- (1) An electronic system reduces paper waste and time spent processing and storing paper filings, so that efforts can be focused on helping filers comply with filing requirements. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (2) An electronic system is not unduly burdensome on candidates in that it reduces the need for candidates to print out and physically mail statements to the Registrar of Voters office, and it eases the entry of contributors' information for that the system recognizes repeat contributors and automatically populates their information. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (3) The system used by the County contains multiple safeguards to protect the integrity and security of the data and operated securely and effectively. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (4) An electronic system streamlines the filing process, by storing information previously entered, calculating numbers, and helping catch errors before filings are submitted. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (5) Once disclosures are placed online, they are easily accessible for public viewing and allow the public to search reports by field, including, but not limited to, election, candidate, date, contributor and expenditure. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)

SECTION 2. Section 2181-16 of Chapter 1 of Division 18 of Title II of the Humboldt County Code is added as follows:

Sec. 2181-16. Filing campaign statements.

- (a) Whenever any elected officer, candidate or political committee is required by the California Political Reform Act to file a semi-annual campaign statement, a pre-election campaign statement, an amended campaign statement, a supplemental pre-election campaign statement, a report disclosing a contribution received by or made to a candidate, local ballot measure, or an independent expenditure made for or against a candidate or local ballot measure as defined by Government Code, Section 84615, and any further amendments to it, or more, during an election cycle with the Registrar of Voters, it shall be filed electronically beginning January 1, 2022, and may be filed electronically beginning on the effective date of this Ordinance until that date. The elected officer, candidate or committee shall file the statement using the electronic filing system available on the Registrar of Voters' website. The street or address or building number of the persons or entity representatives, or any bank account number, shall be redacted and not be displayed online. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (b) Statements or reports that are filed electronically with the Registrar of Voters pursuant to this section need not also be filed in a paper format. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)

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- (c) This requirement does not apply to any candidate who receives contributions or makes expenditures in a calendar year totaling less than the amount defined by Government Code, Section 84615, and any further amendments to it. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (d) In any instance in which the original statement, report, or other document is required to be filed with the secretary of state and a copy of that statement, report, or other document is required to be filed with the local government agency, the filer is exempt from filing the statement electronically as provided by Government Code, Section 84615. However, the filer has the option of filing an electronic copy with the registrar of voters. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)

SECTION 3. Section 2181-17 of Chapter 1 of Division 18 of Title II of the Humboldt County Code is added as follows:

Sec. 2181-17. Filing statements of economic interest.

- (a) Any person holding a position listed in Government Code Section 87200, or designated in the County of Humboldt's Conflict of Interest Code adopted pursuant to Government Code, Section 87300, shall file any required Statement of Economic Interest reports (Form 700) with the appropriate filing officer for the County of Humboldt using the electronic filing system as set forth in Section 2181-16 and pursuant to Government Code Section 87500 et seq. (Ord. _____, § __, __/__/__)
- (b) Persons filing a Form 700 electronically with the filing officer for the County of Humboldt are not required to also file in paper format. An electronic filing will be the official record of such filing. Filers must sign electronic filings in the electronic filing system under penalty of perjury.

SECTION 4. Section 2181-18 of Chapter 1 of Division 18 of Title II of the Humboldt County Code is added as follows:

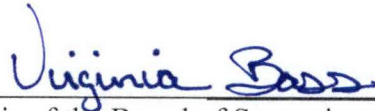
Sec. 2181-18. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. Effective date. This Ordinance shall become effective at midnight on the thirty-first day following adoption.

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PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10 day of August, 2021.

AYES: Supervisors—Bohn, Bushnell, Wilson, Bass, Madrone
NOES: Supervisors--
ABSENT: Supervisors—



Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt

