

## Summary of Rules on Political Committees

**§500** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees sets forth definitions of terms which have been taken directly from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-201. The following terms are defined: “approved political action committee,” “contribution,” “county political party committee,” “legislative caucus committee,” “person,” and “prohibited political action committee.”

**§501** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns registration and reporting and contains provisions applicable to county political party committees. Subsections (a)(1) and (2) are taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-226(a)(1)(A) and (B) which provides that to qualify as a county political party committee, a committee shall register with the Secretary of State within fifteen (15) days after accepting contributions during a calendar year which, in the aggregate, exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Subsection (b) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-226(a)(3)(A) and (B) which provides that a treasurer who is a qualified elector of the State of Arkansas is required to be appointed by the committee and that no contribution is to be accepted from a committee and no expenditure is to be made by a committee which has met the registration threshold but has not registered and appointed a treasurer. Subsection (c) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-226(b)(3) which provides that the committee is required to designate an official depository within the State of Arkansas for the purposes of depositing all money contributions that it receives and making all expenditures and that the full name and street address of the financial institution is required to be disclosed on the registration form. Subsection (d) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-226(c) which provides that within fifteen (15) calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, a committee is required to file a quarterly report with the Secretary of State, including contribution totals, itemization of contributions received and contributions made, expenditures, and any change in the information required on its registration form. Subsection (e) clarifies that no registration or reporting is required and the treasurer and depository requirements are not applicable if the committee does not meet the five thousand dollar (\$5,000) threshold.

**§502** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns registration and reporting and contains provisions applicable to political action committees. Subsection (a) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(a)(1)(A) and (B) which provides that to qualify as an approved political action committee, the committee is required to register with the Secretary of State within fifteen (15) days after accepting contributions during a calendar year which, in the aggregate, exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) and that the registration is to be annually renewed by January 15, unless the committee has ceased to exist. Subsection (b) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(a)(3)(A) and (B) which provides that the committee is required to appoint a treasurer who is a qualified elector of the State of Arkansas and that no contribution may be accepted from a committee and no expenditure may be made by a committee which has met the registration threshold but has not registered and appointed a treasurer. Subsection (c) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(a)(4) and (b)(4) which provides that the committee is required to

designate an official depository within the State of Arkansas for the purposes of depositing all money contributions that it receives and making all expenditures and that the full name and street address of the financial institution is required to be disclosed on the registration form. Subsection (d) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(c)(1) which provides that within fifteen (15) calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, a committee is required to file a quarterly report with the Secretary of State, including contribution totals, itemization of contributions received and contributions made, expenditures, and any change in the committee information required on its registration form. Subsection (e) clarifies that no registration or reporting is required and the treasurer and depository requirements are not applicable if the committee does not meet the five hundred dollar (\$500) contribution threshold.

**§503** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns registration and reporting and contains provisions applicable to legislative caucus committees. It serves to clarify that a legislative caucus committee is required to comply with the registration and reporting provisions of § 502, including the appointment of treasurer who is a qualified elector of the State of Arkansas and the establishment of an account in a depository within Arkansas, if the committee contributes more than \$500 in a calendar year to candidates, ballot question committees, legislative question committees, political parties, county political party committees, or other political action committees.

**§504** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns registration and reporting and contains provisions applicable to out-of-state political action committees. This section is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(a)(4) and clarifies that an out-of-state political action committee is required to comply with the registration and reporting provisions of § 502, including the appointment of treasurer who is a qualified elector of the State of Arkansas and the establishment of an account in a depository within Arkansas if the committee contributes more than \$500 in a calendar year to candidates, ballot question committees, legislative question committees, political parties, county political party committees, or other political action committees.

**§505** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns records retention and contains provisions applicable to political action committees and county political party committees. This section is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(a)(2)(A) and (B) and Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-226(a)(2)(A) and (B) which provide that committees are required to maintain for a period of four (4) years records evidencing the name, address, and place of employment of each person who contributed to the committee, along with the amount contributed, and the name and address of each candidate who received a contribution from the committee, along with the amount contributed.

**§506** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns contribution limits and contains provisions applicable to political action committees and county political party committees. Subsections (a) and (b) are taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-201(1)(A) and Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-201(6)(D) which provide that no political action committee or county political party committee shall (i) accept any contribution or cumulative contributions in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from any person in any calendar year and (ii) make any contribution or cumulative contributions to another committee in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in any calendar year. Subsection (c) is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-203(a) and (b) which provides that for purposes of making contributions to candidates, political action committees and county political party committees may contribute up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to a candidate’s campaign for each election, whether the candidate is opposed or unopposed.

**§507** – This section of the Rules on Political Committees concerns administrative expenses and clarifies that political action committees and county political party committees may pay reasonable administrative expenses out of the contributions received. This section is taken from Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-215(c)(1)(E) and Ark. Code Ann. § 7-6-226(c)(1)(E).