

in accordance with § 26-12 of this article with the board at which the candidate filed his certificate of candidacy. Election reports as specified below are required by all candidates for public or party office whether or not the candidate's name appears on the primary ballot, or the candidate withdraws subsequent to filing his certificate of candidacy, or the candidate is unsuccessful in the election. Each report filed shall contain all contributions received and expenditures made in furtherance of the candidate's nomination or election by the candidate himself or, with the knowledge of the candidate, by any other person or groups of persons, WHICH SHALL BE COMPLETE, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION through and including the seventh day immediately preceding the day by which that report is to be filed. The initial report filed shall contain all contributions so received and expenditures so made since the date of the last preceding election to fill the office for which he is a candidate. Each subsequent report shall contain all contributions so received and expenditures so made since the end of the period for which the last preceding report is filed. Even if no contributions or expenditures have been made since the end of the period for which the last preceding report was filed, a statement to that effect must be filed on the forms prescribed pursuant to § 26-12 of this article under the circumstances and at the times specified in this section. The initial and subsequent reports shall be consecutively filed as follows:

(2) No later than the [Tuesday] SECOND FRIDAY immediately preceding any election WHICH SHALL BE COMPLETE THROUGH AND INCLUDING THE PRECEDING SUNDAY; and

(e) [Whenever any report is required to be filed by a certain date, it] ANY REPORT shall be considered timely if it is mailed [by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and bears a postmark] on or before [the required date] ~~THE THIRD DAY PRECEDING THE FILING DEADLINE~~, regardless of when it is actually received, IF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAS PROVIDED VERIFICATION OF THAT FACT BY AFFIXING A MARK SO INDICATING ON EITHER THE ENVELOPE OR ANY RECEIPT THEREFOR. Unless a report is mailed, the boards and the State Administrative Board of Election Laws shall provide a receipt for each report received.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.

Approved May 12, 1981.

-----