

# Chapter 6

## What is a Political Committee?

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A political committee means:

1. A combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than an individual, that, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$500 during a single calendar year:
  - a. Accepts contributions for the purpose of making contributions to any candidate, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party;
  - b. Accepts contributions for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or issue;
  - c. Makes expenditures that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate or issue; or
  - d. Makes contributions to a common fund, other than a joint checking account between spouses, from which contributions are made to any candidate, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party.
2. The sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment by initiative who intends to seek the signatures of registered electors.

A political committee is **not** an organization whose activities are limited to making expenditures for electioneering communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making electioneering communications.

Other exceptions to the definition of a political committee are certain corporations or business entities, committees of continuous existence and political parties.

*(Section 106.011(1), F.S.)*

## Comparison of Political Committee, Committee of Continuous Existence And Electioneering Communication Organization

	Political Committee (PC)	Committee of Continuous Existence (CCE)	Electioneering Communication Organization (ECO)
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>To support or oppose any candidate, issue*, PC, CCE, ECO, or political party.</p> <p>May make independent expenditures.</p> <p>May make electioneering communications.</p> <p>*A sponsor of a constitutional initiative petition must be a PC. (100.371, F.S.)</p>	<p>To make contributions to candidates, committees, or political parties. (106.04, F.S.)</p> <p>May contribute to PCs supporting or opposing an issue if such contributions do not exceed 25% of its annual income as reported for the previous year. (106.04(5), F.S.)</p> <p>May contribute to an ECO. (DE 06-09)</p> <p>May <b>not</b> make independent expenditures. (DE 04-09)</p> <p>May <b>not</b> make electioneering communications. (106.04(5), F.S.)</p>	<p>Limited to making expenditures for electioneering communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making electioneering communications. (106.011(19), F.S.)</p> <p>May <b>not</b> "expressly advocate" the election or defeat of a candidate or the passage or defeat of an issue. (106.011(18), F.S.)</p>
<b>Special Organizational Criteria</b>	None.	<p>Must be organized and operated in accordance with a written charter or bylaws that contain procedures for the election of officers and defines membership in the organization. (106.04(1)(a), F.S.)</p> <p>At least 25% of the income, excluding interest, of the organization must come from dues of members. (106.04(1)(b), F.S.)</p>	None
<b>Initial Filings</b>	<p>Statement of Organization (106.03, F.S.)</p> <p>Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (106.021, F.S.)</p> <p>Registered Agent Statement of Appointment (106.022, F.S.)</p>	<p>Application for Certification</p> <p>Charter or Bylaws</p> <p>Dues or assessment schedule</p> <p>Financial statement for preceding 12 months</p> <p>Registered Agent Statement of Appointment (106.04(2), F.S.)</p>	<p>Statement of Organization (106.03, F.S.)</p> <p>Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (106.11(1)(d)3., F.S.)</p> <p>Registered Agent Statement of Appointment (106.022, F.S.)</p>

	<b>Political Committee (PC)</b>	<b>Committee of Continuous Existence (CCE)</b>	<b>Electioneering Communication Organization (ECO)</b>
<b>Campaign Accounts</b>	Funds must be deposited in a campaign depository designated “ <i>((Name of Committee) Campaign Account).</i> ” (106.11(1)(b), F.S.)	May use the organization’s checking account.	May use the organization’s checking account.
<b>Limits on Contributions To the Entity</b>	PC supporting or opposing issues only - no limit. PC supporting or opposing one or more candidates - \$500 per election PC supporting or opposing both candidates and issues - \$500 per election  (106.08, F.S.)	As long as the requirements under “Special Organizational Criteria” are maintained there is no limit.	No monetary limit May not accept a contribution from an organization exempt from taxation other than a political committee, committee of continuous existence, political party, or electioneering communication organization unless the contributing organization has registered as if it were an ECO (106.08(5)(d), F.S.)
<b>Limits on Contributions By the Entity</b>	PC to a candidate - \$500 per election. PC expenditures in support of or opposition to issues – no limit. PC to a political party – no limit.	CCE to a candidate or PC supporting candidates - \$500 per election. (106.08, F.S.) CCE to an ECO or a political party – no limit. CCE to a PC supporting issues – not to exceed 25% of its annual income as reported on the annual report filed from the previous year. (106.04(5), F.S.)	May not make contributions to candidates (106.11(19), F.S.)
<b>Restrictions</b>	Funds may be used <b>only</b> for PC activity and <b>only</b> for the purpose of influencing the results of an election.	A CCE must register as a PC in order to directly support or oppose issues. (106.04(5), F.S.) May <b>not</b> make independent expenditures (DE 04-09) May <b>not</b> make electioneering communications. (106.04(5), F.S.)	Funds may only be used to make electioneering communications. (106.011(19), F.S.) An ECO must register as a PC in order to directly support or oppose issues. May <b>not</b> make independent expenditures.

	<b>Political Committee (PC)</b>	<b>Committee of Continuous Existence (CCE)</b>	<b>Electioneering Communication Organization (ECO)</b>
<b>When to File Reports</b>	See <i>Calendar of Reporting Dates</i> on the Division's web site.	See <i>Calendar of Reporting Dates</i> on the Division's web site. Annual report filed in January of each year.	See <i>Calendar of Reporting Dates</i> on the Division's web site. See also section 106.0703 for additional reporting requirements
<b>Where to File Reports</b>	Division of Elections – if supports or opposes statewide, legislative, or multicounty candidates or issues.  Supervisor of Elections – if supports or opposes candidates or issues in a countywide or less than a countywide election, except municipal.  Municipal Clerk – if supports or opposes only municipal candidates or issues.	Division of Elections (106.04(4), F.S.)	Division of Elections – if supports or opposes statewide, legislative, or multicounty candidates or issues.  Supervisor of Elections – if supports or opposes candidates or issues in a countywide or less than a countywide election, except municipal.  Municipal Clerk – if supports or opposes only municipal candidates or issues.