

Information regarding Political Finance in respect of Local Councils elections PUNJAB & SINDH

As local Government/Councils elections in Punjab and Sindh are being held in Oct, Nov and December in THREE phases, as notified by the Election commission of Pakistan, it is necessary to know what is to be done by all contesting candidates with regard to political finance which is an important factor in local Governments/ Councils electoral process and covers; 1) disclosures of assets and liabilities 2) election campaign expenses, by all contesting candidates and 3) limits of campaign expenses.

Appended hereunder the provisions of requirements regarding the time frame to disclose and submit the statements of asset & liabilities and Campaign expenses and the limits of campaign expenses, in respect of Punjab and Sindh local Government/Councils' elections.

PUNJAB

Disclosures:-

1. Assets and liabilities:-

Every contesting candidate for each seat in the local councils is required to submit his/her statement of assets and liabilities with nomination papers.

2. Election campaign expenses:-

Every contesting candidate shall, within **thirty days** of the publication of names of the returned candidates in the official Gazette, submit to the Returning Officer a statement of election expenses in Form-XVI containing an account of all payments made by the contesting candidate together with all the bills and receipts with an affidavit sworn by the contesting candidate. (Sec 60 of the Punjab Local Governments (Conduct of Elections) Rules 2013)

Non submission of election campaign expenditure statement is an illegal Act on which a fine of Rs.2000 may be imposed. (Sec 51(f) of the Punjab Local Government Act 2013)

3. Inspection of statements:-

The statement of election campaign expenditure and documents submitted shall be open to inspection for one year by any person on payment of fee as may from time to time be fixed by the Election Commission and copies that of can be obtained on payment of prescribed fee

Election campaign expenses limits:-

A contesting candidate shall incur expenditure on election campaign during local council's elections not exceeding;

1.	Mayor and Deputy Mayor as joint candidates	Rs.200,000/-
2.	Chairman and Vice Chairman of District Council as joint candidates	Rs.200,000/-
3.	Chairman and Vice Chairman of Municipal Committee as joint candidates	Rs.50,000/-
4.	Chairman and Vice Chairman of Union Council as joint candidates	Rs.100,000/-
5.	Members of Union Councils and Wards of Municipal Committees (direct election).	Rs.30,000/-
6.	Members against reserved seats in District Council, Municipal Committee, Municipal Corporation and Metropolitan Corporation (indirect election).	Rs.20,000/-

SINDH:- Disclosures:-

1. Assets and liabilities:-

Every contesting candidate for each seat in the local councils is required to submit his/her statement of assets and liabilities with nomination papers.

2. Election campaign expenses:-

Every contesting candidate shall, within **thirty five days** of the publication of names of the returned candidates in the official Gazette, submit to the Returning Officer a statement of election expenses in Form-XV containing an account of all payments made by the contesting candidate together with all the bills and receipts with an affidavit sworn by the contesting candidate. (Sec 58 of the Sindh Local Councils (Elections) Rules 2015)

Non submission of election campaign expenditure statement is an illegal Act on which a fine of Rs.2000 may be imposed. (Sec 58(f) of the Sindh Local Councils (Elections) Rules 2015)

3. Inspection of statements:-

The statement of election campaign expenditure and documents submitted shall be open to inspection for one year by any person on payment of fee as may from time to time be fixed by the Election Commission and copies that of can be obtained on payment of prescribed fee.

Election campaign expenses limits:-

A contesting candidate shall incur expenditure on election campaign during local council's elections not exceeding;

- Rs 50.000/- in case of Union Council, Union Committee, Town Committee and Municipal Committee.
- Rs.100.000/- in case of District council and Corporation.