

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. A candidate signed her name as Mildred C. Fisher on the Declaration of Candidacy, but is known as Catherine Fisher. How will her name appear on the ballot?**

The name on the ballot must appear exactly as the name is written on the candidate's Declaration of Candidacy.

- 2. Can a candidate sign his or her own Petition of Candidacy?**

Yes. There is nothing in the law that prohibits a candidate from signing their own Petition of Candidacy.

- 3. May a registered city voter sign petitions for two candidates running for City Council?**

Yes. A registered city voter is free to sign as many petitions as they want.

- 4. Must the city clerk notarize a candidate's declaration and/or petition, or can the candidate have it notarized elsewhere?**

Any notary public authorized by the State of Idaho can notarize a candidate's declaration and petition.

- 5. Can candidates campaign on Election Day?**

Candidates can campaign on Election Day – however, candidates should be aware that campaigning or distributing candidate materials within a polling place or within 100 feet of a polling place on Election Day is prohibited. A polling place Campaigning or distributing candidate materials are also prohibited within 100 feet of a polling place that includes the in-person absentee polling place or early voting facility.

- 6. Can a bar sell liquor by the drink on Election Day? Can liquor stores be open on Election Day?**

Bars can sell liquor by the drink during city elections. The City of Sandpoint does not have an ordinance prohibiting the sale of liquor by the drink during city elections. State liquor stores and contract liquor stores are allowed to be open and sell package liquor on Election Day.

- 7. Is the city clerk required to check the signatures on a Petition of Candidacy against the signatures on the voter registration cards?**

No. Petition signatures must be verified by the county clerk before the petition is submitted to the city clerk. The county clerk will attach a certificate to the petition indicating the number of signatures that are of qualified city electors.

- 8. Am I required to open a separate bank account for campaign purposes?**

According to the Association of Idaho Cities, the law does not explicitly say that a separate account is required, but it is strongly recommended for the candidate's protection.

Idaho Code 67-6610C strictly prohibits conversion of campaign funds to personal uses, such as mortgage payments, non-campaign related food expenses, or any other expense of a person that would exist even if they weren't running for office.

Say you decide to use your personal checking account for your campaign contributions and expenditures. For most of us, there is a point in the month after all our bills are paid where the account balance gets low. If you are spending the campaign contributions to pay for your personal expenses, you are breaking the law.

Getting a separate campaign account protects the candidate from the sort of violation that can derail a person's campaign for public office pretty quickly.

9. How soon can I start raising and spending money for my campaign?

Before a person becomes a candidate, the person must file a C-1 form with the city clerk identifying the name and contact information of their political treasurer. Only after the candidate has filed the C-1 form may the campaign begin raising and spending money. Candidates can certify their treasurer and start raising and spend money long before they file their Declaration of Candidacy with the city clerk.

Any individual registered to vote in Idaho may serve as a political treasurer. A candidate may serve as his/her own political treasurer. An individual may serve as the political treasurer for more than one candidate or political committee. The candidate and political treasurer are required to sign the C-1 form.

10. What should be disclosed on campaign signs and any other type of campaign advertisement?

Idaho Code below requires when making expenditures for political advertising such as campaign signs, radio, newspaper ads and flyers, that it be indicated on such communication. The disclosure only needs to be on one side of the campaign sign. Here is an example of how it should be disclosed:

“Paid for by John Smith for City Council, Joe Green Treasurer.”

67-6614A. Publication or distribution of political statements. Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing communications expressly advocating the election, approval or defeat of a candidate or measure ***through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising***, the person responsible for such communication shall be clearly indicated on such communication.

11. Where are campaign signs allowed to be displayed?

Political signs may be allowed within the right of way as long as you obtain permission from the adjacent property owner. Political signs are not allowed in City parks or on any City property with buildings. Political signs must be moved within five (5) days after the election by the candidate or the property owner who placed the sign.