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To: All Candidates for Elective Office in 2009  
Appointees to Elective Office in 2009

From: David E. Freel, Executive Director  
Ohio Ethics Commission

Subject: Personal Financial Disclosure Requirements and Commission Assistance

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Congratulations on your candidacy for, or appointment to, elected office! On behalf of the Ethics Commission, allow me to commend you for your desire to serve the public and to offer the Commission as a valuable resource on any questions you may have about Ohio's Ethics Law.

As you may be aware, Ohio law requires appointees and candidates for many elected offices to file a personal Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS). (Village and township elected officials are exempted from the filing requirement.) Disclosure assists public officials to identify the potential for conflicts of interest between their public responsibilities and their private pursuits.

All **candidates** running in 2009 for elected city or county offices, and some candidates running for school board or education service center governing board in larger school districts\*, are required to complete and file an FDS. County Boards of Elections must provide each candidate with a copy of the FDS form.

All candidates are required to file their FDS no later than 30 days before the first primary at which their candidacy will be voted on. **For candidates in the May 5 primary, the deadline is April 6, 2009.** Write-in candidates are required to file their FDS no later than 20 days before the first primary at which their candidacy will be voted on. (For write-in candidates in the May 5 primary, the deadline is April 15, 2009.) Be sure to file on time prior to your primary to avoid mandatory late fees.

Individuals **appointed** to unexpired terms in elected offices must also file an FDS. The statements are due within 15 days after the appointee qualifies for office (usually when he or she is sworn in). The appointee is required to be given the FDS form from either the board of elections or the appointing authority, but you may also [download](#) a copy from our Web site.

If you have *any* questions about the filing requirement or the form itself, the Ethics Commission offers additional assistance. Please call us at (614) 466-7090. More information about financial disclosure is available on the Commission's Web site at this link: [FDS Information](#).

\* Those running for office in districts or service centers with more than 12,000 average daily membership. A list of these districts and service centers is available [here](#).