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FEDERAL BI-PARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT (BCRA)

There are significant requirements under BCRA that apply to political committees filing with the New York State Board of Elections, a local board of elections or with a village clerk. Under certain circumstances these committees will need to make financial disclosure filings with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

For example:

- Committees that contribute more than $1,000 per year, in the aggregate, to federal candidates or committees, or have expenditures of more than $1,000 per year, in the aggregate, in support of federal candidates or committees, are required to register and file with the FEC.

- Party committees that spend at least $5000 per year on certain activities conducted in connection with an election in which a candidate for federal office appears on the ballot, including voter registration activity and get out the vote activity, are required to register and file with the FEC. It does not matter if the party committee conducting these activities did not contribute to a federal candidate, support a federal candidate, or even mention a federal candidate.

Additionally:

- Local party committees should consult with their state party committees concerning activities that may be deemed “coordinated party expenditures” under federal law, and which would then be subject to strict limitations.

- There may also be restrictions on the use of money that is received from contributors.

These are only a few examples of activities which may trigger the BCRA filing requirements. If you believe that your committee may fall under BCRA, you are urged to contact the Federal Election Commission at www.fec.gov , “Help with Reporting and Compliance” or call 1 800 424-9530 for further information.

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