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Independent expenditures file description

The independent expenditures file contains detailed information about independent expenditures. These are spending by individual people, groups, political committees, corporations or unions expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified federal candidate. These expenditures may not be made in concert or cooperation with or at the request or suggestion of a candidate, the candidate's campaign or a political party.

This file contains 24-hour and 48-hour reports of independent expenditures filed during the current election cycle.

- 48-hour reports: Any time up to 20 days before an election, if independent expenditures by a person or organization aggregate more than $10,000 in a race they must be reported to the Commission before the end of the second day after the communication is publicly distributed.
- 24-hour reports: If the communications are distributed within the last 19 days before the election, the expenditure must be reported within one day if they aggregate more than $1,000 in a race.

The file shows detailed information about independent expenditures including who was paid, the purpose of the disbursement, date and amount of the expenditure, and the candidate supported or opposed by the expenditure. Historical data is available beginning with the 2010 election cycle.

Duplicated data

This file contains transactions from both original reports and amended reports. Transactions from an original report are not removed when that report is later amended. This means that transactions will be duplicated in this dataset. Analysis of these data will require some work so that totals are not inflated. Generally this can be done by sorting the records by filer and date and targeted candidate with an examination of amendment indicator columns or report type codes when the same dates and amounts appear.

Independent expenditure file format

Column name	Field name	Data type	Description	Range	Explanation
CAN_ID	Candidate ID	Character	Unique ID of candidate for or against whom the expenditure was made	9 characters	First characte indicates offic H=House, S=Se P=Presidentia Characters 3 the state abbr for Congressic candidates. N information is by filers and n missing - in th cases office, s district and ca name should
CAN_NAM	Candidate name	Character	Name of candidate	Max 90 characters	
SPE_ID	Spender ID	Character	Unique ID of committee, individual or group making expenditure	9 characters	Unique FEC ID to the entity submitting re independent expenditures
SPE_NAM	Spender name	Character	Name of committee, individual or group making expenditure	max 90 characters	
ELE_TYP	Election type	Character	Code for specific election for which expenditure was made	5 characters	First characte indicates elec P=Primary, G=G S=Special. Nex characters ind election year.
CAN_OFF_STA	Candidate state	Character	Postal state abbreviation for the candidate	2 characters	
CAN_OFF_DIS	Candidate district	Number	District number for the candidate	2 characters	District locati spending for/a House candid
CAN_OFF	Office	Character	Office sought by candidate	1 character	H=House, S=Se P=President
CAN_PAR_AFF	Party	Character	Party abbreviation for candidate	3 characters	Dem=Democra Rep=Republic The full list of abbreviations
EXP_AMO	Expenditure amount	Currency	Dollar amount of specific expenditure		
EXP_DAT	Expenditure date	Date	Date of specific expenditure	MM/DD/YYYY	
AGG_AMO	Aggregate amount	Currency	Total amount expended during the calendar year, per election, per office sought		
SUP_OPP	Support/Oppose	Character	S=Support, O=Oppose	1 character	
PUR	Purpose of expenditure	Character		max 100 characters	description of expenditure, e television or r
PAY	Name of payee	Character		max 90 characters	Name of the p vendor or othe receiving this
FILE_NUM	Filing number	Number	Unique identifier for a submission (which may report several disbursements)	7 characters	
AMN_IND	Amendment Indicator	Character	New report or amendment to a report	2 characters	
TRA_ID	Transaction ID	Character	Unique identifier for the transaction (unique within the specific filing	Max 32 characters	
IMA_NUM	Image number	VARCHAR2 (11) or VARCHAR2(18)	Image location for page on which transaction appears	VARCHAR2 (11) or VARCHAR2(18)	11-digit image Format YYOORRFFFF YY - scanning O0 - office (01 02 - Senate, 0 Paper, 90-99 - Electronic) RRR - reel num FFFF- frame n 18-digit Image Format (June : YYYYMMDDSS YYYY - scannin MM - scanning DD - scanning SS - source (0 Senate, 03 - Fl 9x - FEC Electr PPPPPPPP - pa to zero every y January 1)
REC_DT	Filing receipt date	Date	Date on which transaction was submitted to FEC	MM/DD/YYYY	
FEC_ELECTION_YR	Two-year period	Date	Two-year period	YYYY	
PREV_FILE_NUM	Previous filing number	Number	Reference to a filing being amended	6 characters	For electronic the previous f number refere filing being ar For new filings paper filings t will be null
DISSEM_DT	Dissemination date	Date	Date of public dissemination	MM/DD/YYYY	

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The reader is encouraged also to consult the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), Commission regulations (Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations), Commission advisory opinions and applicable court decisions.