pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 6, 2020

Temporary Waiver of Notarization Requirement for Campaign Finance Reports and Statements

Summary:

The Pennsylvania Department of State requested, and Governor Wolf granted, a temporary waiver of the notarization requirement in the Campaign Finance Reporting Law for campaign finance reports and campaign finance statements filed by political committees and candidates for public office. The waiver includes adopting the use of the unsworn falsification standard and allowing the required documents to be filed online and electronically using the unsworn falsification standard until the COVID-19 health emergency subsides.

The following alternative filing process is in effect in the meantime:

- Filers must sign and date their report or statement cover sheet. Their signature acknowledges, by unsworn statement subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities, that the statements contained in the filed report or statement are accurate. The Pennsylvania Electronic Transactions Act allows either a physical signature or a typed name to comply with the Act's requirements.
- For filers who file on paper, the department will accept emailed reports for the duration of the emergency. This complies with statewide quarantine requirements; relieves filers of the need to travel to post offices, private delivery service offices or the department's drop box in Harrisburg; and eliminates paper documents that would otherwise require processing in person at the department. Instead, documents will be reviewed remotely and processed by department staff who are currently teleworking. Please email the reports to: RA-stcampaignfinance@pa.gov