

DEC Party Assessment Fees

Party Assessment Fees can be a significant source of income for DEC's. Florida Statutes outline the details of Party Assessment Fees. Here is a brief overview.

What are Party Assessment Fees?

- Candidates running for office, who do not qualify to appear on the ballot by petition, qualify by paying a filing fee. For partisan races, this filing fee includes a party assessment fee, which is 2% of the annual salary for the office the candidate is running for. [[FLA. STAT. section 99.092\(1\)](#)]

What Happens to the Party Assessment Fees?

- Within 20 days after the close of qualifying in even-numbered years, the Department of State remits party assessment fees to the state executive committee. [[FLA. STAT. section 99.103\(2\)](#)]
- County Executive Committees receive the party assessment fees for partisan candidates running for offices in a single county, except state senators, state representatives, and U.S. Congress representatives. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.121\(1\)\(b\)](#)]
- The state party returns the 2% committee assessment for county candidates to the appropriate county executive committees only upon receiving the county's [letter of non-endorsement](#) and upon the state chair's determination that the county executive committee is in [compliance](#) with all Florida Statutes and all state party rules and [bylaws](#). [[FLA. STAT. section 103.121\(5\)](#)]

What do DEC's Need to do to Ensure They Receive Their Party Assessment Fees?

- Ensure your DEC has met all [annual compliance requirements](#). [[FLA. STAT. section 103.121\(5\)](#)]
- The DEC Chair or Treasurer must file an [Independent Expenditure Statement](#) with the Secretary of State (Bureau of Election Records, Division of Elections, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250). Please also email a copy to PartyAffairs@FloridaDems.org. [[FLA. STAT. section 106.087\(1\)\(a\)](#)]

What is an Independent Expenditure?

- An Independent Expenditure is an expenditure for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or the approval or rejection of an issue that is not coordinated with or made upon consultation with a candidate or political committee. [[FLA. STAT. section 106.011\(12\)\(a\) & \(b\)](#)] (Note: Submission of this [Independent Expenditure Statement](#) will not preclude a DEC from disseminating slate card advertising.)

Are There any Limitations on how Party Assessment Fees can be Spent?

- [FDP Charter Article V, section 6](#) says Party Assessment Fees shall be spent to assist the election of Democrats.
- [FDP Bylaws section 6](#) says a DEC receiving Party Assessment Fees shall submit a campaign plan detailing the expenditure of the Party Assessment Fees to the State Chair and Budget and Finance Committee for approval.