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Campaign Accounts and Banking Requirements – Candidate Guidance

What requirements are in place regarding campaign accounts?

- **A candidate shall designate one primary campaign account in which to disperse contributions received and expenditures made, [13-37-205, MCA](#).** The account must be with a “bank, credit union, savings and loan association, or building and loan association authorized to transact business in the State of Montana”. A candidate may have more than one account in the same depository at the same time.
- **A candidate may not utilize their regular or personal account as a campaign account.**
- **You may be required to obtain an EIN number to open a campaign account.** Please direct questions about obtaining an EIN number to your bank, credit union, savings and loan association, or building and loan association directly, or the [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#).

Do I need to establish separate accounts for the primary and general elections?

- **Legislative candidates: No.** Candidates for election to the Legislature may utilize the same campaign account for both primary and general election funds so long as the candidate maintains records concerning which election contributions were received for and the balance in the account does not drop below the amount of general election contributions received until after the primary election. See [13-37-205\(6\), MCA](#) for full requirements.
- **For all other candidates: Yes.** Candidates for election to any public office other than the Legislature must deposit primary and general election funds in separate accounts. See [44.11.224, ARM](#) for full requirements.