



# What kind of entity should I register?

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

**When your group is deciding what kind of entity to register, you should consider three things:**

- What is the group's major purpose?
- What does the group want to spend its money on?
- Does the group want to take contributions from groups not registered with the Board or corporations?

Because candidate committees, political party units, political committees, and political funds that are registered with the Board CANNOT accept corporate contributions, either directly or indirectly, your group's decision regarding whether to accept corporate contributions will affect what your group can spend its money on.

## What is the group's major purpose?

**Political committees** are groups of two or more people that exist for only one purpose: to influence elections. That election can be the election of one or more candidates, an election in which people vote on amendments to the state constitution, or both types of elections. Registering as a political committee indicates that the group is going to raise and spend money in its own name to influence elections and that it will track that money for disclosure purposes.

**Political funds** are groups of two or more people whose main purpose is something other than influencing elections. If a group whose major purpose is something other than influencing elections wants to spend some of its money to influence an election, the money that the group collects or uses to influence elections is called its political fund. The political fund is not an entity separate from the group itself; it is just an accumulation of the group's money. Registering as a political fund indicates that the group is going to use some of its money to influence elections and that it will track that money for disclosure purposes. The political fund may keep its money in a separate bank account but it does not have to do so.

## What does the group want to spend its money on and from whom will it take contributions?

There are two specialized types of political committees and funds that can accept more money from groups not registered with the Board without obtaining additional donor disclosure from those groups. The two specialized types of political committees and funds also can accept corporate contributions. But because they can accept corporate contributions, they are limited in what they can do with their money.

**Independent expenditure committee or fund** – Independent expenditures are expenditures that a group makes on a candidate's behalf without consulting with or involving the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee in any way. Independent expenditures are not contributions to the candidate.

**Ballot question political committee or fund** - Ballot question expenditures are expenditures to influence voting in elections on amendments to the state constitution.

This chart compares the two types of political committees and funds.

	General purpose committees/funds	Specialized committees/funds
Can make contributions to candidates, political parties, and standard political committees and funds registered with the Board?	Yes	No
Can make contributions to specialized committees and funds?	Yes	Yes
Can make independent and ballot question expenditures?	Yes	Yes
Can accept corporate contributions?	No	Yes
Can accept more money from groups not registered with the Board without obtaining additional donor disclosure?	No	Yes