

Lunch and Learn: Getting Started in the new MD CRIS

*Candidacy and Campaign
Finance Division*

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Welcome to Lunch and Learn

- A service provided by the MD State Board of Elections (SBE) and the Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance (CCF) to assist candidates, their advocates and the citizens of Maryland on how to operate as a public finance (PF) candidate.
- Twice monthly program
- Understand the rules of PF and how they differ from a traditional / regular candidate committee.
- Understand the mechanics of reporting your transactions into MD Campaign Reporting Information System (CRIS).

MD SBE is Multiple Websites

- The Main Page
 - Business Contribution Disclosure System (BCDS)
 - Campaign Reporting Information System (CRIS)
 - Election History & Voter Registration Information



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Maryland State Board of Elections. The header features the Maryland State Board of Elections logo and the tagline "Verified. Open. Trusted. Empowering." Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Voting, Candidacy, Press Room, Elections, Campaign Finance, and About. A large banner image on the right shows a hand holding a ballot with a star on it. The main content area has a heading "Use Your Voice. Use Your Vote." followed by a subtext: "This site is your official hub for voting in Maryland. From registration to the ballot box, we're here to help you prepare for and participate in every election!" Below this are three buttons: "Register to Vote", "Get Involved", and "Rumor Control". To the right is a "Notable Events" sidebar listing "Next Board Meeting" (Thu Dec 04, 2:00 p.m. (virtual)), "Annual High School Voter Registration Contest" (Sep 2025 to Jun 2026), and a "Latest in Elections" sidebar with links for "2026 Gubernatorial Election" and "2025 Municipal Election Results". At the bottom is a "Public Materials" sidebar with links for "Online & Downloadable Forms", "Election Data & Reports", and "State and Local Board Documents". The footer contains contact information: 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-269-2840 | 800-222-8683, and an email link info.sbe@maryland.gov. The footer also includes links for Contact, Privacy, and Accessibility.

Continue to Bookmark This Landing Page

- In your browser
- Refer back to it often.



The new CRIS

An official Government website. [Here's how you know.](#) [Go to Business Contribution Disclosure System.](#)

Maryland State Board of Elections

Welcome to
Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System
Verified. Open. Trusted. Empowering.

Top Fundraising

Committee Type: Candidate Committee
Office Sought: [Office Sought](#)
Election Cycle: 2023-2026

Bubble Chart Bar Chart Pie Chart

Top Fundraising
\$16,731,779.61 was raised by our top 10 committees.

The Top Ten Earners list identifies the committees that have received the highest total contributions.

Committee	Contribution Amount
Moore, Wes For Maryland	\$6,444,363.53
Scott, Brandon M. People for	\$1,736,145.37
Ferguson, Bill Citizens for	\$1,420,117.36
Braveboy, Aisha Friends Of	\$1,280,147.96
Lierman, Brooke for Maryland	\$1,244,962.34
Hawkins, Calvin For County Executive	\$1,055,243.79
Dixon, Sheila Friends For	\$1,072,858.51
(Berzoff-Cohen) Cohen, Zeke	\$854,880.92

Committees

Contributions

Expenditures

Filed Reports

Independent Expenditures/Electioneering Communications



New Campaign Reporting Information System
(went live on Fri. Dec. 5)

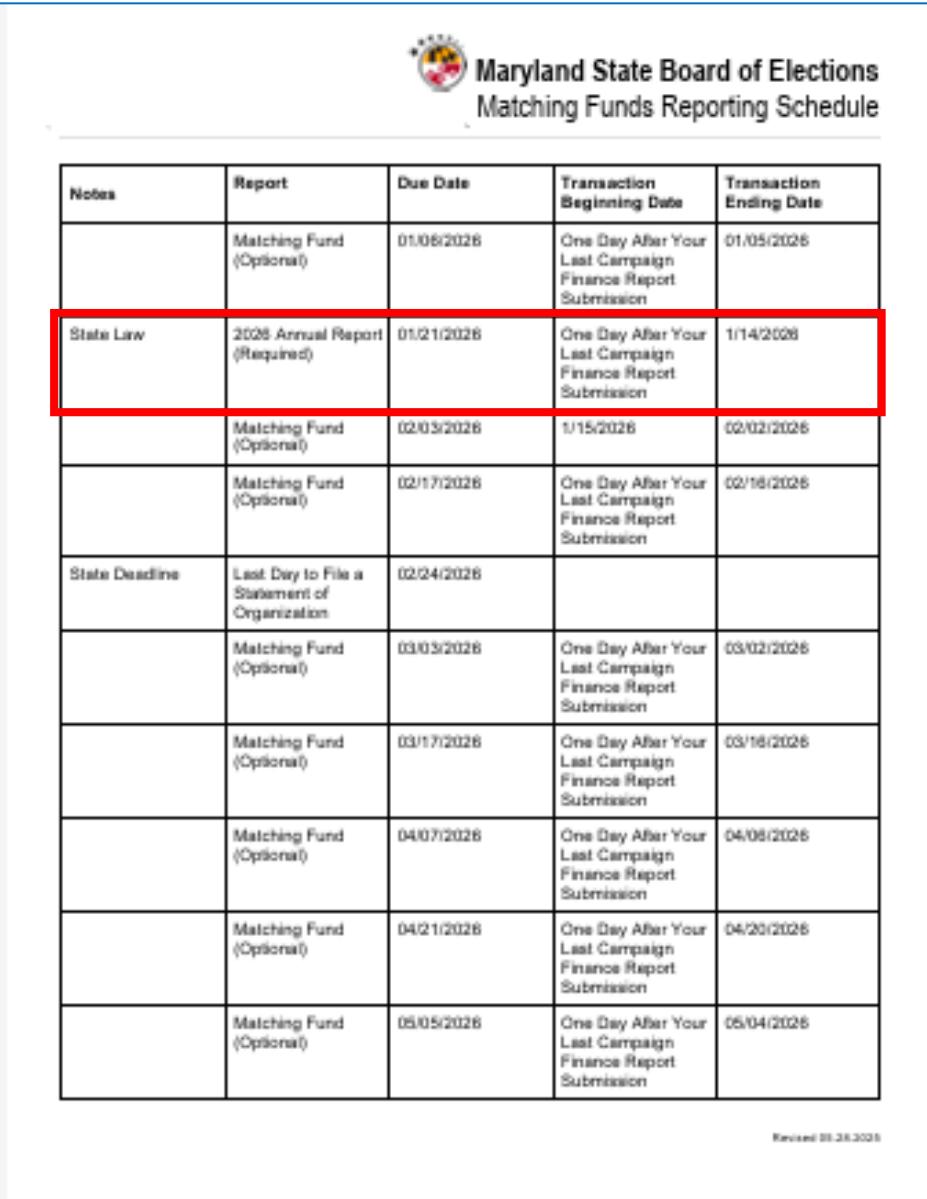
<https://campaignfinance.maryland.gov/login>

Latest Public Finance (PF) News

- 50 candidates have filed for PF
- 9 candidates have already qualified
 - Howard (4), Montgomery (4), and Anne Arundel (1)
- 3 candidates have withdrawn from Public Financing.
- Five committees are being reviewed right now.
- Several more are close to filing their initial matching fund report.

Matching Fund Report (MFR) Schedule

- Can file on either MFR date or a statutory date.
- Different deadlines



The image shows a document titled "Maryland State Board of Elections Matching Funds Reporting Schedule". The document features a table with columns for Notes, Report, Due Date, Transaction Beginning Date, and Transaction Ending Date. The table lists various reporting periods, including statutory dates like "State Law" and "State Deadline", as well as optional matching fund dates. A red box highlights the "State Law" row, which corresponds to the statutory deadline for filing a Statement of Organization.

Notes	Report	Due Date	Transaction Beginning Date	Transaction Ending Date
	Matching Fund (Optional)	01/06/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	01/05/2026
State Law	2026 Annual Report (Required)	01/21/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	1/14/2026
	Matching Fund (Optional)	02/03/2026	1/15/2026	02/02/2026
	Matching Fund (Optional)	02/17/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	02/16/2026
State Deadline	Last Day to File a Statement of Organization	02/24/2026		
	Matching Fund (Optional)	03/03/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	03/02/2026
	Matching Fund (Optional)	03/17/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	03/16/2026
	Matching Fund (Optional)	04/07/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	04/06/2026
	Matching Fund (Optional)	04/21/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	04/20/2026
	Matching Fund (Optional)	05/05/2026	One Day After Your Last Campaign Finance Report Submission	05/04/2026

What We Will Cover Today

- Five Things to Learn
 - Problems Uploading Receipts into new CRIS
 - Amending Deficiencies (If you had filed under the old – legacy – system)
 - Receipts for Non county residents
 - Help Section
 - Getting Ready for the 2026 Annual Report

1. Problems Uploading Receipts into new CRIS

- Sometimes you might have trouble uploading a receipt.
- “Web Server error”
- Not your fault. Systems are having trouble talking with each other

1. Problems Uploading Receipts into new CRIS

- “Web Server error” work around
- New CRIS allows you to upload not just a pdf but jpeg, png, docx files.
- Convert the pdf that is getting the “Web server error” into a different file format.

1. Problems Uploading Receipts into new CRIS

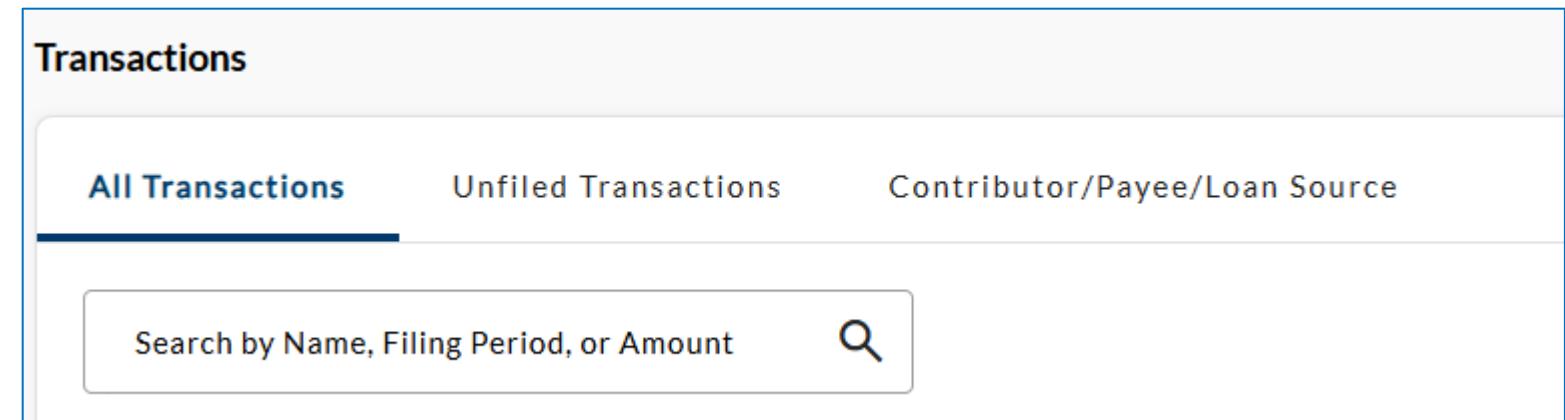
- Once you have a new screen capture of the receipt.
- Upload in the new file format.

2. Amending Deficiencies (If you had filed under the old – legacy – system)

- Applies only to the PF committees that filed in the old system.
- All of the filing committees had errors (called deficiencies). They can cure (correct) them and still get their matching funds.
- Mostly duplicate names.

2. Amending Deficiencies (If you had filed under the old – legacy – system)

- How to merge duplicates



Transactions

All Transactions Unfiled Transactions Contributor/Payee/Loan Source

Search by Name, Filing Period, or Amount

2. Amending Deficiencies (If you had filed under the old – legacy – system)

- Choose the one transaction to be the parent
- Others are the children.
- If you are having trouble with the merging of duplicates (AND YOU FILED IN THE OLD SYSTEM) call me and I work with you.

3. Receipts for Non county residents

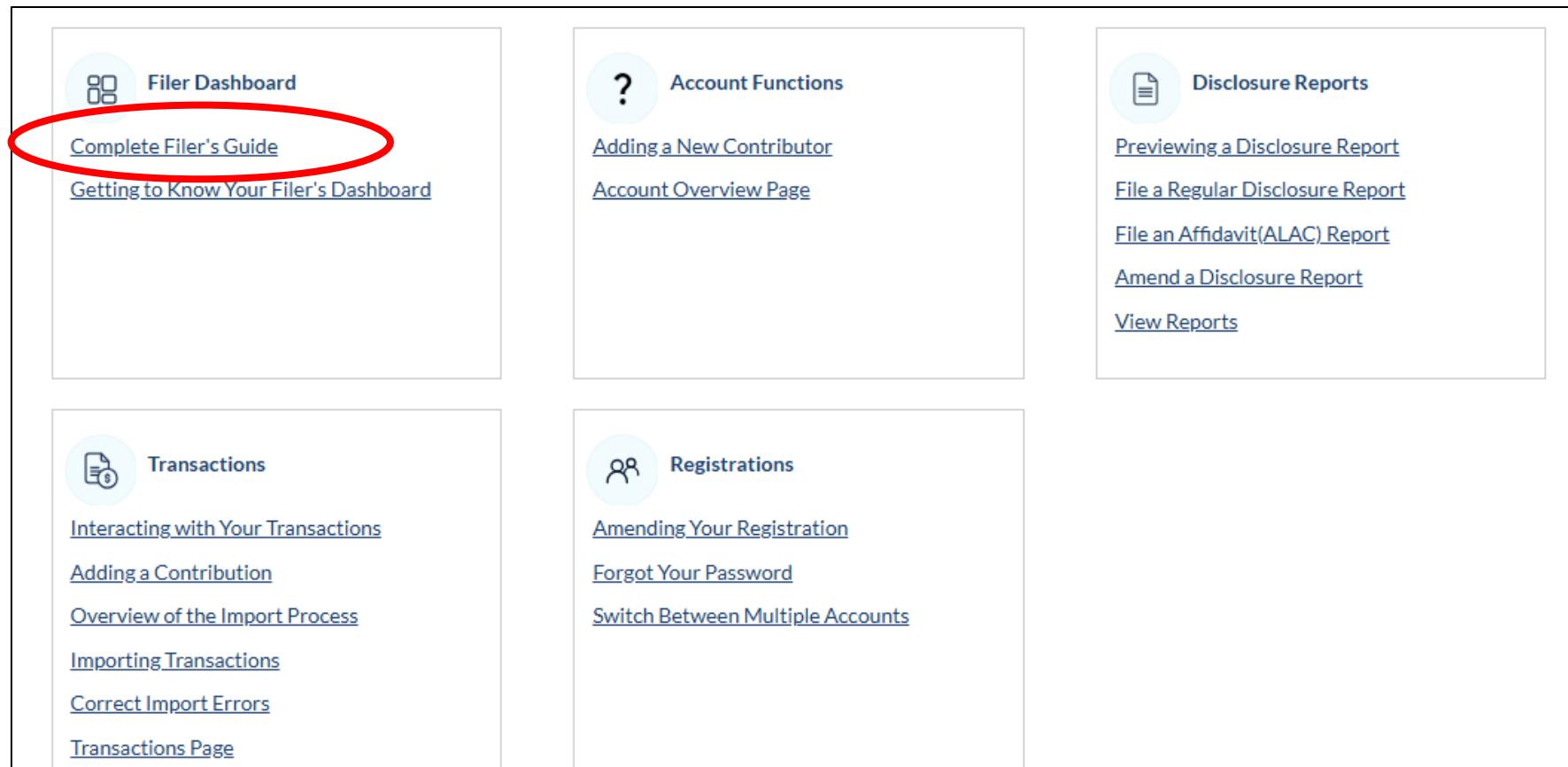
- SBE asks for receipts from non-county (or non-state for Gubernatorial) donors.
- New CRIS can't accept them right now.
 - We will fix that later.
 - Will not keep you from getting your matching funds.

3. Receipts for Non county residents

- Collect the non-county donors.
- Get their receipts.
 - When we have a fix, I will alert you.
 - Again: Will NOT keep you from getting your matching funds.

4. How to Learn in new CRIS

- Filer's Dashboard is your friend



Filer Dashboard

[Complete Filer's Guide](#) (circled in red)

[Getting to Know Your Filer's Dashboard](#)

Account Functions

[Adding a New Contributor](#)

[Account Overview Page](#)

Disclosure Reports

[Previewing a Disclosure Report](#)

[File a Regular Disclosure Report](#)

[File an Affidavit\(ALAC\) Report](#)

[Amend a Disclosure Report](#)

[View Reports](#)

Transactions

[Interacting with Your Transactions](#)

[Adding a Contribution](#)

[Overview of the Import Process](#)

[Importing Transactions](#)

[Correct Import Errors](#)

[Transactions Page](#)

Registrations

[Amending Your Registration](#)

[Forgot Your Password](#)

[Switch Between Multiple Accounts](#)

4. How to Learn in new CRIS

- User's Guide



Maryland State Board of Elections

CAMPAIGN REPORTING
INFORMATION SYSTEM

Filer's User Guide

5. Getting Ready for the 2026 Annual Report

- All candidate committees, not just public finance ones, have to file their 2026 Annual.
 - All transactions through Wed. Jan 14, 2026, at 11:59PM
 - 2026 Annual Report is due Wed. Jan. 21, 2026, at 11:59PM
- If you have not met your qualifying thresholds, you still have to file.

5. Getting Ready for the 2026 Annual Report

- Will talk more about this in the next Lunch & Learn
- Bottom line: you file your 2026 Annual regardless of where you are on qualifying.

Questions

Future Lunch and Learns

- Mon. Jan. 19th, Noon. Handling Your First Required Report
- Mon. Feb. 2nd, Noon. How to Amend / Edit Transactions in new MD CRIS

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