

Instructions for Form 8872

(Rev. October 2020)



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Political Organization

Report of Contributions and Expenditures

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future Developments

For the latest information about developments related to Form 8872 and its instructions, such as legislation after they were published, go to [IRS.gov/Form8872](https://www.irs.gov/Form8872).

What's New

Required electronic filing of Form 8872. The Taxpayer First Act amends Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 527(j) to require Form 8872, Political Organization Report of Contributions and Expenditures, to be filed electronically. The electronic filing requirement is effective for periods beginning after December 31, 2019. The IRS will not accept Form 8872 reports filed on paper for periods beginning after December 31, 2019. See [Where and How To File](#), later.

General Instructions



This form and all attachments are subject to public inspection. Do not enter social security numbers on this form or any attachments.

Purpose of Form

Unless an exception applies (see *Who Must File* below), a tax-exempt section 527 political organization must file Form 8872 to report certain contributions received and expenditures made. Generally, an organization that is required to file Form 8872 must also file Form 8871, Political Organization Notice of Section 527 Status, within 24 hours of the organization's formation or within 30 days of any material change to the information reported on Form 8871.

Note. The organization isn't required to report contributions accepted or expenditures made after July 1, 2000, if they were received or made under a contract entered into before July 2, 2000.

Who Must File

Every section 527 political organization that accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure for an exempt function during the calendar year must file Form 8872, except:

- A political organization that isn't required to file Form 8871,
- A political organization that is subject to tax on its income because it didn't file or amend a Form 8871, or
- A qualified state or local political organization.

A qualified state or local political organization is a political organization that meets the following requirements.

- The organization's exempt functions are solely for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any state or local political office or office in a state or local political organization.

- The organization is subject to state law that requires it to report information that is similar to that required on Form 8872.
- The organization files the required reports with the state.
- The state makes such reports public and the organization makes them open to public inspection in the same manner that organizations must make Form 8872 available for public inspection.

For additional information, including the prohibition of involvement in the organization of a federal candidate or office holder, see section 527(e)(5).

When To File

Due dates for Form 8872 vary depending on whether the form is due for a reporting period that occurs during an even-numbered or odd-numbered year.

Note. If any due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the organization may file on the next business day.

Even-Numbered Years

The organization may opt to file its reports on either a quarterly or monthly basis, but it must file on the same basis for the entire calendar year.

Quarterly reports. File the first report for the first quarter of the calendar year in which the organization accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure. Quarterly reports are due by the 15th day after the last day of each calendar quarter, except the year-end report, which is due by January 31 of the following year. In addition, the organization may have to file a pre-election report, a post-general election report, or both, as explained below.

Monthly reports. File the first report for the first month of the calendar year in which the organization accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure. Reports are due by the 20th day after the end of the month. This report must reflect all reportable contributions accepted and expenditures made during the month for which the report is being filed. No monthly reports are due for October and November. Instead, the organization must file a pre-general election report and a post-general election report (see *Pre-election report* and *Post-general election report*). In addition, a year-end report must also be filed by January 31 of the following year instead of a monthly report for December.

Pre-election report. This report must be filed before any election for which the organization made a contribution or expenditure. This report must be filed by the:

- 12th day before the election, or
- 15th day before the election, if the organization is posting the report by certified or registered mail.

This report must reflect all reportable contributions accepted and expenditures made through the 20th day before the election.

Post-general election report. File by the 30th day after the general election. This report must reflect all reportable

contributions accepted and expenditures made through the 20th day after the general election.

“Election” means:

- A general, special, primary, or runoff election for a federal office;
- A convention or caucus of a political party that has authority to nominate a candidate for federal office;
- A primary election held for the selection of delegates to a national nominating convention of a political party; or
- A primary election held for the expression of a preference for the nomination of individuals for election to the office of President.

“General election” means:

- An election for a federal office held in even-numbered years on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November; or
- An election held to fill a vacancy in a federal office (that is, a special election) that is intended to result in the final selection of a single individual to the office at stake in a general election.

Odd-Numbered Years

The organization may opt to file its reports on either a semiannual or monthly basis, but it must file on the same basis for the entire calendar year.

Semiannual reports. File the mid-year report by July 31 for the period beginning January 1 through June 30. File the year-end report by January 31 of the following year for the period beginning July 1 and ending December 31.

Monthly reports. File the first report for the first month of the calendar year in which the organization accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure. Reports are due by the 20th day after the end of the month, except for the December report, which is due on January 31 of the following year. This report must reflect all reportable contributions accepted and expenditures made during the month for which the report is being filed.

Where and How To File

Form 8872 must be filed electronically.

File using the IRS website at [IRS.gov/polorgs](https://www.irs.gov/polorgs). A username and a password are required for electronically filing Form 8872. Organizations that have completed the electronic filing of Form 8871 and submitted a completed, signed Form 8453-X, Political Organization Declaration for Electronic Filing of Notice of Section 527 Status, will receive a username and a password in the mail. Organizations that have completed the electronic filing of Form 8871, but haven't received their username and password, may request them by writing to the following address.

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: Request for Form 8872
Password Mail Stop 6273
Ogden, UT 84201

If you have forgotten or misplaced the username and password issued to your organization after you filed your initial Form 8871 and Form 8453-X, please send a letter requesting a new username and password to the above address. You may also fax your request to 801-620-3249. It may take 3–6 weeks for your new username and password to arrive, as they will be mailed to the organization. Submit your request as soon as possible after you discover the loss of

your username and password to allow you to submit your next filing on time.

Who Must Sign

Form 8872 must be signed by an official authorized by the organization to sign this report.

Penalty

A penalty will be imposed if the organization is required to file Form 8872 and it:

- Fails to file the form by the due date, or
- Files the form but fails to report all of the information required or it reports incorrect information.

The penalty is 21% for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017 (35% for tax years beginning before December 31, 2017) of the total amount of contributions and expenditures to which a failure relates.

Other Required Reports and Returns

An organization that files Form 8872 may also be required to file the following forms.

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, or Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax (or other designated annual return).
- Form 1120-POL, U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Political Organizations (annual return).

Public Inspection of Form 8872

The IRS will make Form 8872 (including Schedules A and B) open to public inspection on the IRS website at [IRS.gov/polorgs](https://www.irs.gov/polorgs). In addition, the organization must make available for public inspection a copy of this report during regular business hours at the organization's principal office and at each of its regional or district offices having at least 3 paid employees. A penalty of \$20 per day will be imposed on any person under a duty to comply with the public inspection requirement for each day a failure to comply continues. The maximum penalty imposed on all persons for failures relating to one report is \$10,000.

Telephone Assistance

If you have questions or need help completing Form 8872, please call 1-877-829-5500. This toll-free telephone service is available Monday through Friday.

Exempt Organizations Update

The IRS has established a new, subscription-based email service for tax professionals and representatives of tax-exempt organizations. Subscribers will receive periodic updates from the IRS regarding exempt organization's tax law and regulations, available services, and other information. To subscribe, visit [IRS.gov/efo](https://www.irs.gov/efo).

Specific Instructions

Line A

Enter the beginning and ending date for the period to which this report relates. If the organization filed a prior report for the calendar year, the beginning date must be the first day following the ending date shown on the prior report.

Line B

- Check the "Initial report" box if this is the first Form 8872 filed by the organization for this period.

- Check the "Change of address" box if the organization changed its address since it last filed Form 8871, Form 8872, Form 990 (or 990-EZ), or Form 1120-POL.
- Check the "Amended report" box if the organization is filing an amended report.
- Check the "Final report" box if the organization won't be required to file Form 8872 in the future.

Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Enter the correct EIN in the space provided as shown on the Form 8871 the organization filed.



DO NOT enter social security numbers on Form 8872 or on any attachments to this form.

Foreign Address

Enter the information in the following order: city or town, state or province, and country. Follow the country's practice for entering the postal code, if any. Don't abbreviate the country name.

Lines 5a and 5b

Enter the name and address of the person in possession of the organization's books and records.

Lines 6a and 6b

Enter the name and address of the person whom the public may contact for more information about the organization.

Lines 8a through 8h

Check only one box. See *When To File*, earlier, for details on the types of reports and the periods covered.

Line 8f. If the organization is filing on a monthly basis, enter the month for which this report is being filed. During even-numbered years, don't check this box to report October, November, or December activity. Instead, file a pre-general election report, post-general election report, a year-end report; and check the appropriate box on line 8d, 8g, or 8h.

Line 8g. If the organization is filing a pre-election report, also indicate the type of election (primary, general, convention, special, or runoff) on line 8g(1), the date of the election on line 8g(2), and the state in which the election is held on line 8g(3).

Line 8h. If the organization is filing a post-general election report, indicate the date of the election on line 8h(1) and the state in which the election was held on line 8h(2).

Line 9

If the organization is required to file Schedule(s) A, enter the total of all subtotals shown on those schedules. If the organization isn't required to file Schedule A, enter zero.

Line 10

If the organization is required to file Schedule(s) B, enter the total of all subtotals shown on those schedules. If the organization isn't required to file Schedule B, enter zero.

Schedule A—Itemized Contributions

Note. Multiple Schedules A can be filed with any report. Number each schedule in the box in the top right corner of the schedule. Be sure to include both the number of the specific page and the total number of Schedules A (for example, "Schedule A, page 2 of 5").

The organization must list on Schedule A each contributor from whom it accepted contributions during the calendar year if:

- The aggregate amount of the contributions accepted from that person during the calendar year as of the end of this reporting period was at least \$200, and
- Any of those contributions were accepted during this reporting period.

Treat contributions as accepted if the contributor has contracted or is otherwise obligated to make the contribution.

In-kind contributions must be included. These contributions may be identified by including "(In-kind)" in the contributor's name field.

As an entry on the last page of Schedule A, enter the total amount of all contributions received from contributors whose aggregate contributions were less than \$200 and aren't reported elsewhere. Enter "Aggregate below Threshold" instead of the contributor's name. Also enter your organization's address and the last day of the reporting period (for example, Jan. 31); and enter "N/A" for employer, occupation, and date.

Name of Contributor's Employer

If the contributor is an individual, enter the name of the organization or person by whom the contributor is employed (and not the name of his or her supervisor). If the individual is self-employed, enter "Self-employed." If the individual isn't employed, enter "Not employed." If the contributor isn't an individual, enter "N/A."

Contributor's Occupation

If the contributor is an individual, enter the principal job title or position of that contributor. If the individual is self-employed, enter the principal job title or position of that contributor. If the individual isn't employed, enter a descriptive title to explain the individual's status such as "Retired," "Student," "Homemaker," or "Unemployed." If the contributor isn't an individual, enter "N/A."

Aggregate Year-to-Date Contributions

Enter the total amount of contributions accepted from the contributor during this calendar year as of the end of this reporting period.

Amount of Contribution

If a contributor made more than one contribution in a reporting period, report each contribution separately. If the contribution is an in-kind contribution, report the fair market value of the contribution.

Non-Disclosed Amounts

As the last entry on Schedule A, list the aggregate amount of contributions that are required to be reported on this schedule for which the organization doesn't disclose all of the information required under section 527(j). Enter "Withheld" as the contributor's name. Enter the organization's address, the date of the report, and "N/A" for occupation and employer. This amount is subject to the penalty for the failure to provide all the information required. See *Penalty* for details, earlier.

Schedule B—Itemized Expenditures

Note. Multiple Schedules B can be filed with any report. Number each schedule in the box in the top right corner of the schedule. Be sure to include both the number of the

specific page and the total number of Schedules B (for example, "Schedule B, page 2 of 10").

The organization must list on Schedule B each recipient to whom it made expenditures during the calendar year if:

- The aggregate amount of expenditures made to that person during the calendar year as of the end of this reporting period was at least \$500, and
- Any of those expenditures were made during this reporting period.

Treat expenditures as made if the organization has contracted or is otherwise obligated to make the expenditure.

In-kind expenditures must be included. These expenditures may be identified by including "(In-kind)" in the purpose field.

As an entry on the last page of Schedule B, enter the total amount of all expenditures paid to recipients whose aggregate receipts were less than \$500 and aren't reported elsewhere. Enter "Aggregate below Threshold" instead of the recipient's name. Also enter the organization's address and the last day of the reporting period (for example, Jan. 31); and enter "N/A" for employer, occupation, and date.



Do not include any independent expenditures. An "independent expenditure" means an expenditure by a person for a communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that isn't made with the cooperation or prior consent of, in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate or agent or authorized committee of a candidate.

Name of Recipient's Employer

If the recipient is an individual, enter the name of the organization or person by whom the recipient is employed (and not the name of his or her supervisor). If the individual is self-employed, enter "Self-employed." If the individual isn't employed, enter "Not employed." If the recipient isn't an individual, enter "N/A."

Recipient's Occupation

If the recipient is an individual, enter the principal job title or position of that recipient. If the individual is self-employed, enter the principal job title or position of that recipient. If the individual isn't employed, enter a descriptive title to explain the individual's status such as "Volunteer." If the recipient isn't an individual, enter "N/A."

Amount of Each Expenditure Reported for This Period

Report each separate expenditure made to any person during the calendar year that wasn't reported in a prior reporting period. If the expenditure is an in-kind expenditure, report the fair market value of the expenditure.

Purpose

Describe the purpose of each separate expenditure.

Non-Disclosed Amounts

As the last entry on Schedule B, list the aggregate amount of expenditures that are required to be reported on this schedule for which the organization doesn't disclose all of the information required under section 527(j). Enter "Withheld" as the recipient's name and as the purpose. Enter the organization's address, the date of the report, and "N/A" for occupation and employer. This amount is subject to the penalty for the failure to provide all the information required. See *Penalty* for details, earlier.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax. You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103. However, certain returns and return information of tax exempt organizations and trusts are subject to public disclosure and inspection, as provided by section 6104. The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated burden for tax exempt organizations filing this form is approved under OMB control number 1545-0047 and is included in the estimates shown in the instructions for their information return.
