

# United States Senate

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

April 16, 2020

Dear Colleague:

As you know, federal law and Senate Rules require Senate Members, officers, and certain employees to file public Financial Disclosure Reports on an annual basis. As discussed in more detail below, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) has determined that all Senate Members, officers, and employees who are required to file an Annual Financial Disclosure Report (Annual Report) for CY 2019 will receive an automatic 90-day extension. Therefore, instead of May 15<sup>th</sup>, all such reports will be due on **August 13, 2020**. Filers are, of course, welcome to submit their Annual Reports for CY 2019 at any time before the August 13<sup>th</sup> deadline. This extension does not affect the due date of any other report, including Candidate Reports, New Filer Reports, Termination Reports, and Periodic Transaction Reports.

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (EIGA), 5 U.S.C. app. § 101, provides that anyone who qualifies as a filer during a calendar year “shall file on or before May 15 of the succeeding year a report containing” information about income, assets, and other potential sources of conflicts of interest. While there is no provision in EIGA for changing the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, § 101(g) of the statute provides that “[r]easonable extensions of time for filing any report may be granted under procedures prescribed by the supervising ethics office for each branch, but the total of such extensions shall not exceed ninety days.” The Committee is designated as the “supervising ethics office” for the Senate. Subject to its authority under this provision, the Committee has decided to grant an automatic extension of the maximum 90 days to all Senate Members, officers, and employees who are required to file an Annual Report for CY 2019. There is no need to request an extension or take any other action. Please note that since the Committee is granting an extension to the maximum extent allowed by law, the Committee is not authorized to grant any additional extensions.

As stated above, this automatic extension does not apply to any other report, including but not limited to Candidate Reports, New Filer Reports, Termination Reports, or Periodic Transaction Reports. While filers may request extensions for other reports consistent with the law, please note that certain reports have statutory deadlines that cannot be moved for any reason. Specifically, under § 101(c) of EIGA, Candidate Reports must be filed “in no event later than 30 days before the election.” Similarly, under § 103(l) of EIGA, Periodic Transaction Reports, which are intended to contemporaneously disclose the purchase, sale, or exchange of stocks, bonds and other non-excepted securities, must be filed “in no case later than 45 days after such transaction.”

Finally, while the Committee’s physical office is currently closed, the Committee is open during its normal business hours, and staff are available to assist you. If you need to reach the

Committee, please call us at (202) 224-2981. Alternatively, you may contact the Committee by email at [mailbox\\_office@ethics.senate.gov](mailto:mailbox_office@ethics.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Lankford", with a stylized, cursive script.

James Lankford  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Coons", with a cursive script.

Christopher A. Coons  
Vice Chairman