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#### **Overview**

This article walks through the steps to file your **From 1 FEC Report (Statement of Organization)** and **submit** it electronically through the **Trail Blazer** software to the FEC (Federal Election Commission). This **only** applies to **federal** political campaigns & PACs.

It's a good idea to contact your FEC analyst if you have any questions or concerns going through these steps; they also have a **PDF guide** for filing your Form 1 that you can <u>download here</u>.

**Tip:** New to **tracking finances** for your campaign? Setup a **financial training class** with one of our **financial trainers** for **free** (\*requires you've attended our <u>introduction training class</u> that covers the basics). Our **Curriculum Page** is a good place to start: <u>http://trailblz.com/Support/Learning/Curriculums.aspx</u>



#### <u>Steps</u>

You'll first want to verify all the information for your **Committee** has been recorded properly in **Trail Blazer**.

Navigate to the **Committee** list by following **Application Menu > System Manager > Lists > Committee**. \*Requires appropriate <u>security clearance</u>.







Click on your committee name to open your committee record. In my example it was called Demo Campaign Database – Joel.



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The following **4** screenshots show the different sections of the **Committee record** you'll want to **verify your information** is **present** and **<u>accurate</u>**.



Img 1 of 4 – Verify the Campaign's Physical Address



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Committee Infom	nation		Con	nmittee Continued				
Name:	Demo Campa	aign Database - Joel	Phc	one:	(866) 909-8700			
Address:	620 Mendels	sohn Avenue North	Fax	с	(952) 767-2655			
:	Suite 186		We	b Site	http://kathrynforcor	ngress.us/		
City:	Golden Valle	y .	Alt	Web Site	www.trailblz.com			
State:	MN		E-N	Aail	support@trailblz.co	m		
Zip Code:	55427-4350		Dat	e Organized:	▼ 1/11/2001 ▼			
			Bar	nk Account:	First National Bank		•	
Email Repres	enting/Active in	Related Committee(s) Disclosu	re Settings	s   Officers   F	Reporting Itemized Deta	il Levels	Dates and Election	ns Settings
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Img 2 of 4 – Verify the Officer Information is Correct under the Officers Tab



#### Verify all the information is entered correctly and is up-to-date under the Officers tab.

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Committee Informatio	n			Committee Conti	nued				
Name:	Demo Campaig	ın Database - Joel		Phone:	(866) 909-8700	D			
Address:	620 Mendelsso	hn Avenue North		Fax:	(952) 767-265	5			
:	Suite 186			Web Site	http://kathryr	nforcongress.us/	1	1	
City:	Golden Valley		Alt Web Site	www.trailblz.	com		1		
State:	MN			E-Mail	support@trai	lblz.com		1	
Zip Code:	55427-4350			Date Organized	: 🔽 1/11/200:	1 🔻			
				Bank Account:	First National	Bank	•		
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FEC Report Informat	ion			More FE					
Treasurer				Agent/Asst Treasure	er				
Treasurer Name	Mark Panger		51491	Agent Name	Christopher Olig		127243		
Address :	600 5th Ave S			Address :	6305 Chatham Wa	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e			
Address2:				Address2:					
City/St/Zip:	Hopkins	MN 55343	_	City/St/Zip:	Eden Prairie	MN 55346			
Phone :				Phone :	I				
Compaign Chair				Preparer/Custodian	Of Records				
Chair Name	Brian Hanf		15429	Custodian Name	Patrick Hanfx		46842		
Address :	5631 Welcome	Ave		Address :	2216 Pleasant Ave				
Address2				Address2:	Apt 202	í			
City/St/Zip:	Crystal	MN 55429-27		City/St/Zip:	Minneapolis	MN 55404			
Phone :	952-988-0898			Phone :	9525551212	]			
				Affiliated Organiza	tion				
				Affil. Org ID:					
				Name:		Ĩ			
				Address :		í			
				Address2:	·	í			
				City/St/Zip:	L	í			



Img 3 of 4 – Verify the Dates and Elections are Correct under the Dates and Elections Tab



# Verify all the information is correct under the Dates and Elections tab.

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Committee Information	1	Committee Continue	d
Name:	Demo Campaign Database - Joel	Phone:	(866) 909-8700
Address:	620 Mendelssohn Avenue North	Fax:	(952) 767-2655
:	Suite 186	Web Site	http://kathrynforcongress.us/
City:	Golden Valley	Alt Web Site	www.trailblz.com
State:	MN	E-Mail	support@trailblz.com
Zip Code:	55427-4350	Date Organized:	☑ 1/11/2001 ▼
		Bank Account:	First National Bank 🔹
Email Representing Current Election Current Election Previous and Next Ele Complete even if you or don't plan on runn Previous Election Next Election	g/Active in Related Committee(s) Disclosure General 2016 ections u did not run in the past ing in the future. Primary 2016 Primary 2018	Settings Officers I Current Date Range for Complete if Date Ran on Election dates Begin Date: End Date: Time Zone Settings Time Zone:	Reporting Itemized Detail Levels Dates and Elections Settings or special use nge Value value is not based Image: Weight of the set of



Img 4 of 4 – Verify the Data under Disclosure Settings

**NOTE:** the **FEC Committee ID** & **FEC Candidate ID** are **\*Required\***. The **Filing User ID** is not required, and the **Password** is optional (used if we need to file your report in a pinch).



Committee Informa	ation	Committee Continued
Name:	Demo Campaign Database - Joel	Phone: (866) 909-8700
Address:	620 Mendelssohn Avenue North	Fax: (952) 767-2655
:	Suite 186	Web Site http://kathrynforcongress.us/
City:	Golden Valley	Alt Web Site www.trailblz.com
State:	MN	E-Mail support@trailblz.com
Zip Code:	55427-4350	Date Organized: 🔽 1/11/2001 👻
		Bank Account: First National Bank
FEC Candidate I Elec Filing User Elec Filing Pssw Security Code:	D H6MN05233 ID: rd: TESTPwd123	Candidate Name     James Gibson     46913       Committee Type:     Principal Campaign Committee <ul> <li>Party Type:</li> <li>Organization Type:</li> <li>Image: Image: Ima</li></ul>
Party:	Democratic-Farm-Labor	Leadership PAC?

### Verify all the information is correct under the Disclosure Settings tab.

Navigate to the **FEC Reporting** list by following **Application Menu > System Manager > Disclosure > FEC Reporting**.





Click [+ New] on the Search Tool Strip.



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Click the [1 Create Report] button at the top of the screen.



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ID Reference Form Type Link / Code	Description				

Click [1] to begin creating a new FEC report

Select the Form 1 – Statement of Organization report type from the drop-down, fill out all the other information, and click [OK].



#### \*IF\* you're filing an amendment you'll need to check this box.

Disclosure Report		
Check if Comm	ittee's Address is different than previously reported.	
📄 📄 Is this an Amen	dment?	1
Note: FEC Amend	ment ID must reference the ORIGINAL report ID.	
Fec Amendment Id	: Amendment Number:	
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Committee:	Demo Campaign Database - Joel	
FEC Report Type :	Form 1 - Statement of Organization	
Current Election:	General 2016	
Special Election		
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Signature Date:	2/ 8/2017 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	type from the drop-d
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On the next screen check any of the boxes that apply and click **[OK]**. The **effective date** would be the date the committee was created or the date a new treasurer came on board.

Chee	ck any of the bo	xes that ap	oply.
Form 1 Informatio	on state		
Has the Comm	itte Name changed from previously re	ported.	
📄 Has the Comm	itte's Email Address changed from pre	eviously reported.	
📄 Has the Comm	itte website URL changed from previo	ously reported.	
📄 Is this Commit	tee a Lobbyist / Registrant PAC?		
Effective Date:	2/ 8/2017		
		📀 ок	O Cancel
	Click [OK] to pr	oceed.	

After the report is run you'll get a notification if it passed or failed validation. *If* it failed, **fix** the **errors** and **run it again**. Once it **passes** click the **[2 Check & Print]** button.





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	Click [2] to gener PDF version.	rate the
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1	<pre> Results Section</pre>	ort passed. Warnings should be fixed ill still accept the report as long as there ors.
	<pre>&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; FEC data file PASSED validation! &lt;&lt;&lt;&lt; Alert: 00009 warnings and/or potential missing information encountered === Errors &amp; Warnings Section =</pre>	
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**Review the PDF version** that gets generated for any errors or missing/incorrect information. **Save** the PDF version for your record keeping and navigate back to **Trail Blazer**.

Example of page 1 & 2 of my PDF print preview:



#### Example print preview of the Form 1 - page 1

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FEC STATEMENT OF FORM 1 ORGANIZATION	Export PDF Create PDF Edit PDF Create					
1. NAME OF COMMITTEE (in full)     (Check if name is changed)     Example: If typing, type over the lines.     12FE4M5	Adobe Acrobat Pro DC					
Demo Campaign Database - Joel	Easily edit text and images in PDF documents					
ADDRESS (number and street)	Learn more					
Long View	🥟 Comment					
COMMITTEE'S E-MAIL ADDRESS						
(Check if address support@trailblz.com	🗧 Organize Pages 🗸					
Optional Second E-Mail Address	💪 Fill & Sign					
COMMITTEE'S WEB PAGE ADDRESS (URL)	Send for Signature					
(Check if address is changed)	More Tools					
3. FECTIDENTIFICATION NUMBER						





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I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.	🕒 Export PDF 🗸 🗸
Type or Print Name of Treasurer Panger, Mark, , ,	💾 Create PDF 🛛 🗸
Signature of Treasurer Panger, Mark, Date Date 02 / 08 / 2017	Edit PDF 🔷
NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to the penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g. ANY CHANGE IN INFORMATION SHOULD BE REPORTED WITHIN 10 DAYS.	Adobe Acrobat Pro DC 👘
Office Use Only Only Children and Carter information contact: Federal Election Commission Toll Free Bord-842-9530 Local 202-694-1100 E	Easily edit text and images in PDF documents
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5. TYPE OF COMMITTEE Candidate Committee:	Kalencia Organize Pages 🗸 🗸
(a) <b>X</b> This committee is a principal campaign committee. (Complete the candidate information below.)	🔔 Fill & Sign
(b) This committee is an authorized committee, and is NOT a principal campaign committee. (Complete the candidate information below.)	×& Send for Signature
Name of Gibson, James, Brian, ,	→… Send & Track
Candidate Party Affiliation DFL Office Senate President District 06	🕀 More Tools
(c) This committee supports/opposes only one candidate, and is NOT an authorized committee.	
Name of         Candidate         I	
Party Committee: (National, State (Democratic,	
(d) This committee is a or subordinate) committee of the Republican, etc.) Party.	



Click the [3 Save Report] button.



# Once you've verified the report is correct click the [3 Save Report] button.

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Report Summary Created Date: 02/08/2017 Report Type: F1 Beginning Date: 02/08/2017 End Date: 02/08/2017 Validator: Warning(s)	Image: Create Report     Image: Check & Print       Image: Create Report     Image: Check & Print
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File to upload is located at: C:\Users\jkrist	enson\Documents\Trail Blazer\FecRpts\17020802.fec
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Browse FEC Disclosure Reports online for	information needed.
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For technical support, pl Direct dial: 202-694-1642	ease contact: ELECTRONIC FILING OFFICE, FEC , Toll free: 1-800-424-9530 x 1642
=== Identification Section	
Committee ID: C0042233 Committee Name: Demo Cam Filing Type: F1N Filing Date: 20170208	7 paign Database - Joel
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Once the report is saved click [4 Upload to Fec].



Once you're reviewed the PDF version and everything is ready to go click [4] to begin the upload process.

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I	Browse FEC Disclosure Reports online for information needed.
I	FEC File Validator Version 8.1.0.3
	For technical support, please contact: ELECTRONIC FILING OFFICE, FEC Direct dial: 202-694-1642, Toll free: 1-800-424-9530 x 1642
	=== Identification Section ====================================
	Committee ID: C00422337 Committee Name: Demo Campaign Database - Joel Filing Type: F1N Filing Date: 20170208
	Software/Ver#: Trail Blazer / Ver# 6.2.6236.18967
-	=== Results Section ====================================
I	>>>> FEC data file PASSED validation! <<<<
	Alert: 00009 warnings and/or potential missing information encountered
	=== Errors & Warnings Section ====================================



Fill out the FECLoad form and click [Submit Filing to FEC].



			1. Fill ou	t the info	ormation.					
FECLoad										
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ID	C00422354	(e.g C1								
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e-mail 1	jkristenson@trailblz.com	Confirm	jkristenson@trailblz.com	(e.g johndo	e@cmte.com)					
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About	]			2	Submit Filing to FEC	Cancel				



You'll get a popup notification (it could take about 30 seconds) with either a **success message** or a **failure message**. *If* the upload fails please contact our live support (1-866-909-8700).

You can view your saved reports by navigating to the FEC Reporting list under the Application Menu. *My example saved reports are below.* 



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		V	4	Primary 2014	Q1	7/3/2014	12/31/2013	3/31/2014	Passed	<b>V</b>	1	63,277.53	26,438.17
			5	General 2014	F1	7/12/2014	7/12/2014	7/12/2014	Failed	<b>V</b>	2	.00	.00
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		1	0	Primary 2014	48	7/12/2014	5/29/2014	5/20/2014	Passed		1	00	00
			10	Primary 2014	40	7/12/2014	5/25/2014	6/2/2014	Passed		1	.00	00.
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Report list			18	General 2014	12G	10/23/2014	10/1/2014	10/15/2014	Warning(s)			712,721.54	429,287.11
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			21	General 2014	48	10/29/2014	10/27/2014	10/28/2014	Passed			.00	.00
		V	22	General 2014	48	10/31/2014	10/29/2014	10/30/2014	Passed			.00	.00
			23	General 2014	48	11/2/2014	10/31/2014	11/1/2014	Passed			.00	.00
		V	24	General 2014	30G	12/3/2014	10/16/2014	11/24/2014	Warning(s)		1	250.00	275.00
		<b>V</b>	25	General 2014	30G	12/4/2014	10/16/2014	11/24/2014	Warning(s)			250.00	285.00
			26	General 2014	12G	12/22/2014	10/1/2014	10/15/2014	Warning(s)	<b>V</b>	1	707,996.54	429,012,11





- YouTube Channel
- Knowledge Base Articles
- 3rd Party Resources

## **Related Resources**



Article: <u>Best Practices – FEC Reporting</u>
Article: Creating and Filing your First FEC Report
Article: Uploading your FEC Report – Error :Reason: null
Article: Calculating cycle-to-date numbers for "Schedule A" contribution entries
Article: Forced Itemization of Contributions
Article: Expenditure Reimbursement Schedule A itemization
Article: How to Deposit a Contribution
Article: Delete an Invoice/Payment
Article: How to Un-deposit a Contribution (Primarily for Political Customers)
Article: How to Enter an Invoice and Payment with the New Payment System, and How to Add a Refund and Deduction
Article: Delete a Contribution
Article: <u>Steps to Import Expenditures – with an Example Spreadsheet Template – Political Only (2016 Upgrade)</u>
Article: How to Enter a New Payee
Article: How to Enter an Invoice for a Payee
Article: How to Record a Contribution Refund – Primarily for Political Customers
Article: Enter Contributions
Video: Getting Started 106b – Entering Contributions (POLITICAL ONLY)
Video: Credit Card Memo Entry (using 2015 version of Financial)
Video: <u>Deposits – Setup Bank Account – Set Bank as Default – Create Deposit</u>
Video: Make a Loan Payment (Interest Bearing and Non Interest Bearing)
Training Link: Introduction Training to Trail Blazer (Required Before All Other Trainings)
Training Link: Curriculum Page of Trail Blazer Classes
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Resource: PDF Instructions by the FEC for the Form 1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Resource: <u>Registration Toolkit on the FEC Site</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Resource: Full List of Printable Forms for Registration and Reporting by the FEC



# **Trail Blazer Live Support**

- **C** Phone: 1-866-909-8700
- Brail: <a href="mailto:support@trailblz.com">support@trailblz.com</a>
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trail-Blazer-Software/64872951180
- Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/trailblazersoft</u>

\* As a policy we require that you have taken our intro training class before calling or emailing our live support team.

<u>*Click here*</u> to view our calendar for upcoming classes and events. Feel free to sign up other members on your team for the same training.

\* After registering you'll receive a confirmation email with the instructions for how to log into the <u>GoToMeeting</u> session where we host our live interactive trainings.

\* This service <u>is</u> included in your contract.