

How to track contributions to state and local candidates

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Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014



ILLINOIS State Board of Elections

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NEW Friday, October 17, 2014 Press Release

Voting by personal appearance at an Early Voting Center begins Monday, October 20, 2014 for the November 4, 2014 General Election.

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Illinois State Board of Elections News

10/2/2014 - Campaign Disclosure - Quarterly Report Filing Deadline - Wednesday, October 15th

The filing period for the September 2014 Quarterly Report ends Wednesday, October 15th. The September 2014 Quarterly Report must include all committee...

9/18/2014 - Form D-4 - Complaint for Violation of the Campaign Disclosure Act

Any campaign disclosure complaint dealing with a candidate or question of public policy appearing on the November 4th General Election Ballot and rece...

9/10/2014 - 2014 General Election Educational Resources are Now Available

The Let's Vote K-3 mock election program and coloring book and the 2014 Mock Election 4-12 are now available on the State Board of Election's Website ...

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Event Calendar

Prev	October, 2014							Next
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		

Today: Sunday, October 19, 2014

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Spotlight

Online Voter Registration

Online Registration Begins Here!

[Check Your Online Application Status](#)

NEW DISTRICT/OFFICIAL SEARCH

[Desktop Version](#) [Mobile Version](#)

Next Election

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

CU-CitizenAccess.org

Screen shot for the Illinois State Board of Elections web site

The Illinois State Board of Elections web site is packed with data on contributions to state and local candidates and on how those

candidates spend their money. So we thought that CU-CitizenAccess.org would offer a quick tutorial in how to find that information yourself.

First, go to the State Board's Web site at <http://www.elections.il.gov/> as shown in Figure-1.

Figure 1



Move your cursor towards the top middle and click on “Candidates” to get going. When you click on that, you will get this screen as show in Figure-2.

Figure 2

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, it says "Next Election: Tuesday, November 8, 2016". Below that is a navigation bar with icons for Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled "Information for Candidates" and is divided into three columns:

- Latest Filed:** GENERAL ELECTION - 11/8/2016 (Last Update: 10/10/2016 1:53:12 PM). It lists candidates: DURLEY, PATRICK (MASON / TAZEWELL / WOODFORD SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, REPUBLICAN); BARAKA, AJAMU (STEIN) (PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, GREEN); CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM (PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, DEMOCRATIC); and KAINE, TIMOTHY.
- Welcome Candidates:** A list of links including District/Official Search, Search for a Candidate, Campaign Disclosure (highlighted with a red box), 2016 Presidential & Delegate Candidate's Guide, 2017 Candidate's Guide, 2016 Election And Campaign Finance Calendar, Running for Office, 2016 Judicial Retention, Tracking Elections, Board Related Material, State Officers Electoral Board, and Computerized Registration Data.
- Daily Totals:** GENERAL ELECTION - 11/8/2016 (Last Update: 10/10/2016 1:53:12 PM). A table showing the number of candidates per date.

Date	Candidates
8/25/2016	1
8/16/2016	1
8/2/2016	2
8/1/2016	3
7/22/2016	2
7/11/2016	2
6/27/2016	20
6/23/2016	1
6/21/2016	1
6/20/2016	1
5/31/2016	12
5/27/2016	1
4/21/2016	2
12/21/2015	4
12/18/2015	1
12/16/2015	2
12/14/2015	5

Move your cursor towards the middle of the page and click on “Campaign Disclosure”, located within the “Welcome Candidates” list. After clicking, you will see a screen that looks like Figure-3.

Figure 3

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, it says "Next Election: Tuesday, November 8, 2016". Below that is a navigation bar with icons for Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. A search bar is located below the navigation bar. The main content area is titled "Information for Candidates" and is divided into three columns:

- Latest Filed:** GENERAL ELECTION - 11/8/2016 (Last Update: 10/10/2016 1:54:20 PM). It lists candidates with their names, offices/parties, and status.
- Campaign Disclosure: Information For Candidates:** A central column with various links including "Campaign Disclosure News", "2016 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar", "Calendar of Reports Due", "Understanding Campaign Disclosure", "Campaign Disclosure Act and Rules and Regulations", "Brochures", "Are You Required to File?", "A Guide to Fundraisers", "Campaign Disclosure Seminars", "FAQ", "Candidate Search" (highlighted with a red box), and "Notice of Obligation to File".
- Daily Totals:** GENERAL ELECTION - 11/8/2016 (Last Update: 10/10/2016 1:54:20 PM). A table showing the number of candidates for each date.

Name	Office/Party	Status
DURLEY, PATRICK 605 SAINT MARY ST. ROANOKE, IL 61561	MASON / TAZEWELL / WOODFORD SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPUBLICAN	Active 8/25/2016 4:10 PM
BARAKA, AJAMU (STEIN) 3228 VERDANT S.W. APT. 306 ATLANTA, GA 30331	PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT GREEN	Active 8/16/2016 9:31 AM
CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM 15 OLD HOUSE LANE CHAPPAQUA, NY 10514	PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT DEMOCRATIC	Active 8/2/2016 12:02 PM
KAINE, TIMOTHY MICHAEL (CLINTON) 1515	PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	Active 8/2/2016

Date	Candidates
8/25/2016	1
8/16/2016	1
8/2/2016	2
8/1/2016	3
7/22/2016	2
7/11/2016	2
6/27/2016	20
6/23/2016	1
6/21/2016	1
6/20/2016	1
5/31/2016	12
5/27/2016	1
4/21/2016	2
12/21/2015	4
12/18/2015	1
12/16/2015	2
12/14/2015	5
11/30/2015	44
11/25/2015	8

Located in the middle of the page, listed under “Campaign Disclosure: Information for Candidates”, move your mouse to “Candidate Search” and click on it. After clicking, you will see a screen that looks like Figure-4.

Figure 4

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, the text "Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014" is displayed. The navigation bar includes "Information for:" followed by links for "Voters", "Candidates", "Committees", "Businesses", "Reporters", "Educators", and "L.E.O.'s". A search bar is located below the navigation bar. The main heading is "Contributions Search - All Contributions". Below this heading are four tabs: "All Contributions", "By Candidates", "By Committees", and "By Proposition". The "All Contributions" tab is selected. The search form includes the following fields: "Contribution Type: All Types" (dropdown), "Last or Only Name: Starts with" (dropdown), "First Name: Starts with" (dropdown), "Address: Starts with" (dropdown), "City: Starts with" (dropdown), "State: Select a State" (dropdown), "Zip Code: [] Thru []", "Occupation: Starts with" (dropdown), "Employer: Starts with" (dropdown), "Amount: [] Thru []", "Received Date: [] Thru [] (m/d/yyyy)", and "Sort Result By: Last or Only Name - A to Z" (dropdown). There are "Search" and "Reset" buttons at the bottom of the form. At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Illinois Amber Alert", "National Center for Missing and Exploited Children", and "Privacy Statement".

When you get that screen, move the cursor to the “Last or Only Name” line and click on the downward arrow next to “Starts with” as show in Figure-5. You will get a choice of “Matches,” “Starts With,” and “Contains.”

Figure 5

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, it says "Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014". Below that is a navigation bar with icons for Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. A search bar is present with a "Search" button. The main heading is "Contributions Search - All Contributions". Below this is a search form with tabs for "All Contributions", "By Candidates", "By Committees", and "By Proposition". The form includes fields for Contribution Type (All Types), Last or Only Name (Contains), First Name (Matches, Starts with, Contains), Address (Starts with), City (Starts with), State (Select a State), Zip Code (Thru), Occupation (Starts with), Employer (Starts with), Amount (Thru), Received Date (Thru, m/d/yyyy), and Sort Result By (Last or Only Name - A to Z). There are "Search" and "Reset" buttons at the bottom of the form. At the very bottom of the page, there are links for "Illinois Amber Alert", "National Center for Missing and Exploited Children", and "Privacy Statement".

You want to pick “Contains” because that means you only need to know part of a name to get a result. You can do that with the “First Name” line too as shown in Figure-6.

In this case, we put in the name of Donald Dodds, who is frequent contributor to political campaigns. But you can choose any name for this example in any particular state or local race and see what you get. If you want see some very large contributions pick a big donor from the governor’s race.

To see candidates for Congress or for the President you will need to go to the Federal Elections Commission

<http://www.fec.gov/pindex.shtml> or the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan, nonprofit group

<http://www.opensecrets.org/> that has been collecting and analyzing federal election data for decades.

Figure 6

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014" and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are several icons representing different categories: Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. The main content area is titled "Contributions Search - All Contributions". Below this title, there is a search form with the following fields:

- Contribution Type: All Types
- Last or Only Name: Contains Dodds
- First Name: Contains Donald
- Address: Starts with
- City: Starts with
- State: Select a State
- Zip Code: Thru
- Occupation: Starts with
- Employer: Starts with
- Amount: Thru
- Received Date: Thru (m/d/yyyy)
- Sort Result By: Last or Only Name - A to Z

At the bottom of the search form, there are two buttons: "Search" and "Reset".

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: "Illinois Amber Alert • National Center for Missing and Exploited Children • Privacy Statement".

We hit the search button and get back the result shown in Figure-7. You can see there were 28 contributions listed that totaled \$11,575.

Figure 7

Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

ILLINOIS State Board of Elections

Information for: Voters Candidates Committees Businesses Reporters Educators L.E.O.'s

Home • Return to Previous Page Search Publications • Contact Us

Contributions List

Your search found 28 receipts totaling \$11,575.00

[Download This List](#) [Bookmark the Current Results](#) [Print This List](#)

Contributed By	Amount	Received By	Description	Vendor Name	Vendor Address
Dodds, Donald 1114 W Armory Champaign, IL 61821	\$500.00 5/28/2002	Individual Contribution Friends of Tom Berns			
Dodds, Donald 1114 W Armory Ave Champaign, IL 61821	\$250.00 12/30/2009	Individual Contribution Lincoln Club of Champaign County			
Dodds, Donald 308 S. Neil St Champaign, IL 61820	\$300.00 9/9/2014	Individual Contribution Friends for Karen Foster			
Dodds, Donald 1114 W Armory Ave Champaign, IL 61821	\$500.00 10/5/2006	Individual Contribution Lincoln Club of Champaign County			
Dodds, Donald 1114 W Armory Ave Champaign, IL 61821 Occupation: Business Owner Employer: Self Employed	\$1,000.00 8/24/2005	Individual Contribution Lincoln Club of Champaign County			
Dodds, Donald 1114 W Armory Ave Champaign, IL 61821 Occupation: Business Owner Employer: Self Employed	\$1,000.00 8/11/2004	Individual Contribution Lincoln Club of Champaign County			
Dodds, Donald 38 S. Neil St. Champaign, IL 61820	\$250.00 1/11/2012	Individual Contribution Friends of Tom Bennett			

This is a first step in beginning to look up contributors. If you go back to the selection screen as shown in Figure-5, you see you can narrow your search criteria by many categories, ranging from city or state or occupation or year and so on.

Checking out contributions and expenditures by candidates

There are many ways to look up candidates and seeing who contributed to the candidate and how the candidate has spent the contributions. But one easy way is to use the search box on the home page of the State Board of Elections.

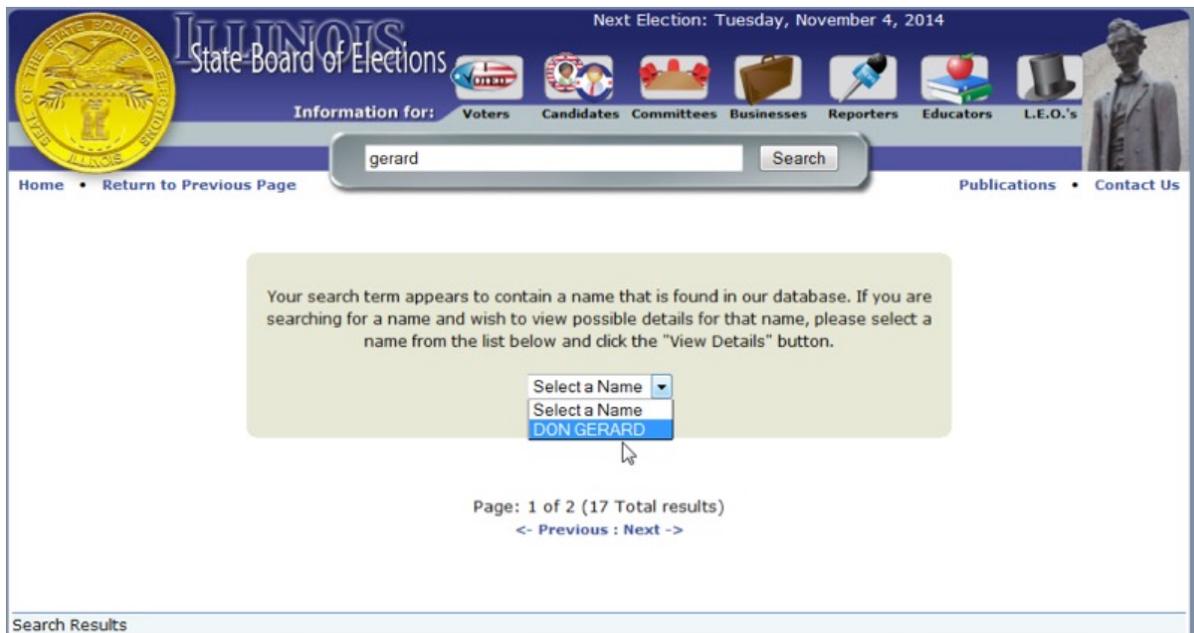
We return to the home page and type in the last name of Don Gerard, the former mayor of city of Champaign, who is running for re-election, as shown in Figure-8.

Figure 8



We hit the search button and we get the screen shown in Figure-9.

Figure 9



We see we get the choice of only Don Gerard because there is no one else with “Gerard” in their name running for office. We click on “Don Gerard” and we get a choice of ways to look at contributions as shown in Figure-10.

Figure 10

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014" and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are several icons representing different categories: Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. The main content area is titled "Database Search Results" and shows the search criteria "for: Don Gerard". There are four main sections, each with a blue header and a light gray body:

- Political Committees**: Contains the link "Candidates with political committees for : Don Gerard". A mouse cursor is pointing at this link.
- Contributions**: Contains two links: "Contributions by : Don Gerard" and "Contributions to : Don Gerard".
- Elected Officials**: Contains the link "Current officials with the last name : Gerard".
- Latest Committee Totals**: Contains the link "Latest committee totals for : Don Gerard".

We could check only contributions by and to Don Gerard, but we also want to see expenditures.

The best way to do that is to look at filings by political committees since candidates run their campaigns by committee. So we click on the “Candidates with political committees for: Don Gerard” and we get the result shown in Figure-11.

Figure 11

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, it says "Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014". Below this is a navigation bar with icons for Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. A search bar is present with the text "Search". Below the search bar, the page title is "Candidate List". There are links for "Bookmark the Current Candidate Results", "Your search found 1 candidates.", and "Print This List". A table lists the candidate:

Candidate Name	Address	Party	Office	District
Don Gerard	1403 W Green St Champaign, IL 61821	Democratic	Mayor/Champaign	City

Records 1 to 1 of 1
[Return to Search](#)

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We click on Don Gerard and we get the screen shown in Figure-12, where we see the detail on the candidate and the name of his committee. It shows his committee is “Friends of Don Gerard.”

Figure 12

The screenshot shows the "Candidate Detail" page for Don Gerard. It displays his name, address (1403 W Green St, Champaign, IL 61821), office (Mayor/Champaign), and party (Democratic). Below this is a table of committees:

Committee Name	Address	Status	ID
Friends of Don Gerard	620 W Clark St Champaign, IL 61820	Active	Local 16075 Committee ID 22970

Below the committee table is another table showing election history:

Election Year	Election Type	Result	Inc/Chall/Open	Fair Campaign
2011	CE	Won	Challenger	

[Return to Previous Page](#)

Illinois Amber Alert • National Center for Missing and Exploited Children • Privacy Statement

We click on Friend of Don Gerard and now we have a series of filings to look at as shown in Figure-13. Let’s pick the quarterly filing near the top.

Figure 13

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, it says 'Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014'. The navigation bar includes 'Information for:' followed by links for Voters, Candidates, Committees, Businesses, Reporters, Educators, and L.E.O.'s. A search bar is present. Below the navigation, there are links for 'Home', 'Return to Previous Page', 'Publications', and 'Cont...'. The main content area displays the profile for 'Friends of Don Gerard'. The purpose is 'To support the candidacy of Don Gerard for the office of the Mayor of the City of Champaign.' The address is '620 W Clark St, Champaign, IL 61820'. It is an 'Active Local 16075 Committee ID 22970'. The 'Type of Committee' is 'Candidate' and the 'Creation Date' is '9/27/2010'. At the bottom of the profile, there are links for 'Officers', 'Previous Officers', and 'Candidates'.

Report Type	Reporting Period	Filed	Pages	Clarification
Quarterly	7/1/2014 to 9/30/2014	10/15/2014 10:47:00 PM Filed electronically	5	
A-1 (\$1000+ Year Round)	7/1/2014 to 9/30/2014	7/23/2014 4:18:01 PM Filed electronically	1	
Quarterly	4/1/2014 to 6/30/2014	7/14/2014 10:01:52 PM Filed electronically	4	
Quarterly	1/1/2014 to 3/31/2014	4/14/2014 2:28:52 PM Filed electronically	2	
Quarterly	10/1/2013 to 12/31/2013	1/6/2014 2:05:29 PM Filed electronically	2	
Quarterly	7/1/2013 to 9/30/2013	10/9/2013 3:18:55 PM Filed electronically	2	
D-1 Statement of Organization (Amendment)		9/26/2013 11:01:53 AM Filed on paper	2	
Quarterly	4/1/2013 to 6/30/2013	7/14/2013 12:35:42 PM Filed electronically	2	
Quarterly	1/1/2013 to 3/31/2013	4/13/2013 4:11:33 PM Filed electronically	3	
Quarterly	10/1/2012 to 12/31/2012	1/7/2013 5:11:35 PM Filed electronically	3	

When we pick the quarterly filing we get more detail on contributions and expenditures during the time period of July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, as shown in Figure-14.

Figure 14

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Elections website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014" and "Information for:" followed by icons and labels for "Voters", "Candidates", "Committees", "Businesses", "Reporters", and "Educators". A search bar is located below the navigation bar. The main content area displays a report titled "Friends of Don Gerard" for the period "7/1/2014 to 9/30/2014". The report includes a "Print Report" link and a section for "RECEIPTS". The receipts are categorized into four groups: Individual Contributions, Transfers In, Loans Received, and Other Receipts. Each group has sub-categories for "Itemized" and "Not-Itemized" contributions, with corresponding dollar amounts.

Friends of Don Gerard	
D-2 Quarterly Report	
7/1/2014 to 9/30/2014	
Print Report	
RECEIPTS	
1. Individual Contributions:	
a. Itemized	\$5,000.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$260.00
2. Transfers In:	
a. Itemized	\$1,000.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$0.00
3. Loans Received:	
a. Itemized (from Schedule A)	\$0.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$0.00
4. Other Receipts:	
a. Itemized (from Schedule A)	\$0.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS (1-4)	\$6,260.00

We will choose the “Itemized” list of contributions and the results are in Figure-15.

Figure 15

Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Information for: Voters Candidates Committees Businesses Reporters Educators L.E.O.'s

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Friends of Don Gerard

D-2 Quarterly Report
7/1/2014 to 9/30/2014

This report has 6 itemized Individual Contributions totaling \$5,000.00

Contributed By	Address	Amount	Description	Vendor Name	Vendor Address
Adams, George	1124 CR 900 E Champaign, IL 61822	\$500.00 7/29/2014	Individual Contribution Friends of Don Gerard		
Barbour-Conerty, Kelly	1916 County Road 1800 E Urbana, IL 61802	\$250.00 7/17/2014	Individual Contribution Friends of Don Gerard		
Sokolski, Jon Occupation: Chief Executive Officer Employer: One Main Development	1 E Main St Suite 200 Champaign, IL 61820	\$2,000.00 7/18/2014	Individual Contribution Friends of Don Gerard		
Southern Central IL Laborers' Political League	5100 Laborers' Way Marion, IL 62959	\$1,000.00 7/18/2014	Individual Contribution Friends of Don Gerard		
Spiros Law, P.C.	2807 N. Vermillion Ste 3 Danville, IL 61832	\$250.00 7/18/2014	Individual Contribution Friends of Don Gerard		
Turner, James Occupation: President Employer: O'Brien Auto Park	Brittany Trail Champaign, IL 61822	\$1,000.00 7/18/2014	Individual Contribution Friends of Don Gerard		

Records 1 to 6 of 6

The list goes on for six pages that you can scroll through. After doing that you can return to the previous page and choose the itemized expenditures as show in Figure-16.

Figure 16

EXPENDITURES	
6. Transfers Out:	
a. Itemized	\$375.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$100.00
7. Loans Made:	
a. Itemized (From Schedule B)	\$0.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$0.00
8. Expenditures:	
a. Itemized	\$2,844.29
b. Not-Itemized	\$368.88
9. Independent Expenditures:	
a. Itemized (From Schedule B-9)	\$0.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (6-8)	\$3,688.17
DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS	
9. a. Itemized (from Schedule C)	\$0.00
b. Not-Itemized	\$0.00
TOTAL DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS	\$0.00
FUNDS BALANCE	
Funds available at the beginning of the reporting period	\$2,829.17
Total Receipts	\$6,260.00
Subtotal	\$9,089.17
Total Expenditures	\$3,688.17
Funds available at the close of the reporting period	\$5,401.00
Investment Total	\$0.00

By choosing “Itemized Expenditures” you can get a list of what the committee has used the contributions for as shown in Figure-17.

Figure 17

Next Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Information for: Voters Candidates Committees Businesses Reporters Educators L.E.O.'s

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Friends of Don Gerard

D-2 Quarterly Report
7/1/2014 to 9/30/2014

This report has 8 itemized Expenditures totaling \$2,844.29

Received By	Address	Amount	Expended By	Purpose / Beneficiary
Duco, Matthew	611 W Church St. Apt. A Champaign, IL 61820	\$1,878.00 9/9/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Consulting Friends of Don Gerard
FedEx	505 S Mattis Champaign, IL 61821	\$96.28 8/16/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Banners Friends of Don Gerard
FedEx	505 S Mattis Champaign, IL 61821	\$49.12 7/5/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Printing Friends of Don Gerard
FedEx	505 S Mattis Champaign, IL 61821	\$45.75 7/6/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Banners Friends of Don Gerard
FedEx	505 S Mattis Champaign, IL 61821	\$21.75 7/6/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Office supplies Friends of Don Gerard
Gerard, Don	1403 West Green St Champaign, IL 61821	\$177.00 7/11/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Promotional items Friends of Don Gerard
Hyatt Place Champaign	217 N Neil St Champaign, IL 61820	\$276.39 7/20/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Fund raising - hall rental Friends of Don Gerard
Williams, Seon	904 N 4th St Champaign, IL 61820	\$300.00 8/20/2014	Expenditure Friends of Don Gerard	Donation Friends of Don Gerard

Records 1 to 8 of 8

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As you can see, the committee has spent money on a consultant, a fundraiser, banners, and a donation to another candidate. However, that is the first of eight pages of expenditures so there will be more scrolling to do.

Again, this is just a quick start to using the Board of Elections web site. There is much more data to mine and more ways to mine when you have the time.

See the link below to download a copy of this guide.

[How to track contributions to state and local candidates.pdf](#)