



FAQ - What Is an EIN and Why Do I Need One?

What is an EIN?

[Employer Identification Numbers](#) (EINs), also known as “Federal Tax Identification Numbers,” serve as identification numbers for the IRS. Any business with employees, and all corporations, are [required to apply](#) for EINs.

An EIN is different than an FEC ID number. **A federal campaign committee must have both.**

Why do I need an EIN?

Federal campaign committees are [required](#) by the FEC to have an EIN, even if they [do not have any employees](#). Even state and local campaigns should consider applying for an EIN.

All organizations are required to have an EIN in order to set up a merchant account, which is needed to set up a WidgetMakr account.

How do I get an EIN?

Campaigns can apply for an EIN on the IRS’ website. Follow [this link](#) to get started. You can also apply by [fax or mail](#).

On the EIN application, the campaign committee must designate a “[responsible party](#).” According to the IRS, the “responsible party” should be the person responsible for managing the entity and its funds. For a business, the owner or general partner would generally serve as the “responsible party.” For a campaign, the candidate or treasurer would typically hold this position. The responsible party must provide a tax identification number, such as a social security number, as part of the application process.