



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Public Financing of Election Campaigns
Candidate Campaigns: Full Public Financing ("Clean Elections")

To qualify for public funds, candidate must raise (or spend):		Public funds are disbursed according to:		Spending Limits	
Seed Money	In contributions satisfying the following criteria:	Distribution method or matching ratio	Up to a maximum amount of:		
STATES WITH PUBLIC FUNDING FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES ONLY					
Vermont 17 VSA §§ 2851-2856	Gov: \$35,000 Lt. Gov: \$17,500	Contributions of no more than \$50 each from no fewer than 1,500 (gov.) or 750 (lt. gov.) individuals who are registered to vote in Vermont No more than 25% of total qualifying contributors may be residents of the same county	Flat grant for full amount, to the extent that funds are available	Primary / general Gov: \$75,000 / \$225,000 Lt gov: \$25,000 / \$75,000 For both, grant for primary election is reduced by an amount equal to the candidate's qualifying contributions Incumbents receive 85% of above-listed amounts	Per two-year election cycle: Gov: \$300,000 Lt gov: \$100,000 Other statewide: \$45,000 State sen: \$4,000 + \$2,500 for each additional seat in the senate district State rep: \$2,000 in single-member districts; \$3,000 in two-member districts Incumbents of statewide offices: 85% of the amounts above Incumbents in the legislature: 90% of the amounts above
STATES WITH PUBLIC FUNDING FOR GUBERNATORIAL AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES					
Maine ^a 21-A MRSA §1121 et seq.	Candidate must receive the following number of qualifying contributions: Gov: 2,500 State Sen: 150 State Rep: 50	\$5 contributions from registered voters within the candidate's district	Flat grant for full amount; paid at beginning of primary and general election periods	Amount equal to spending limit	75% of average expenditure for office sought in 2 previous general elections. Legislative candidates in uncontested elections receive a smaller grant (about 1/3 of the grant for candidates in contested elections) 2006 amounts: Primary / general Gov: \$200,000 / \$400,000 State Sen: \$7,746 / 20,082 State Rep: \$1,504 / 4,362

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	Seed Money	In contributions satisfying the following criteria:	Distribution method or matching ratio	Up to a maximum amount of:	
STATES WITH PUBLIC FUNDING FOR GUBERNATORIAL, OTHER STATEWIDE AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES					
Arizona ^a §16-940 et seq.	Candidate must receive the following number of qualifying contributions: For 2008 election: Legis: 220 For 2006 election: Gov: 4,000 AG, Sec St: 2,500 Other SW: 1,500 Legis: 220	\$5 contributions from registered voters within the candidate's district	Flat grant for full amount; paid at beginning of primary election period and beginning of general election period	Party cand: amt equal to spending limit Independent cand: amt equal to 70% of spending limit Unopposed cand: amt equal to \$5 x number qualified contribs for cand	For 2008 election: Primary / general Legis: \$12,921 / \$19,382 For 2006 election: Primary / general Gov: \$453,849 / \$680,774 AG & Sec St: \$95,550 / \$143,325 Other SW: \$47,770 / \$71,655 Legis: \$11,945 / \$17,918
Connecticut ^c	Gov: \$250,000 Other SW: \$75,000 Senate: \$15,000 House: \$5,000	For gubernatorial candidates, at least \$225,000 (\$67,500 for other statewide candidates) must come from contributions from state residents of up to \$100. For senate candidates, at least 300 contributions (150 for candidates for state house) of \$5 - 100 must come from residents of municipalities included, in whole or in part, in their legislative district.	Flat grant for full amount; paid at beginning of primary and general election periods.	Primary / General Gov: \$1.5 million / 3 million Other SW: \$450,000 / 750,000 Senate: \$50,000 / 85,000 House: \$15,000 / 25,000 Candidates may contribute personal funds, limited to the following amounts: Gov: up to \$20,000 Other SW: up to \$10,000 Senate: up to \$2,000 House: up to \$1,000	Primary / General Gov: \$1,250,000 / 3,000,000 Other SW: \$375,000 / 750,000 Senate: \$35,000 / 75,000 House: \$10,000 / 25,000 Unopposed major party candidates receive 30% of the full amount for the general election. A major party candidate opposed only by a minor party or petitioning candidate receives 60% of the full amount in the general election.

- (a) If a non-participating candidate's spending (added together with independent expenditures) exceeds the established limits, matching funds are provided to any opposing participating candidate, and spending limits are re-adjusted
- (b) The public financing provisions in Massachusetts were enacted by a citizen initiative in 1998 and have not yet been used in an election. The provisions require an appropriation by the Legislature before they can be implemented.
- (c) Connecticut's public financing program takes effect in 2008 for legislative candidates and in 2010 for statewide candidates, with one exception: legislative candidates participating in special elections may begin receiving grants on December 31, 2006. The amounts represented in this table are for major party candidates in regular elections. Different amounts apply for major party candidates in special elections, and for minor party and petitioning candidates in any election

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures
December 2005 (Arizona updated July 2007)
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