



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Public Financing of Election Campaigns
Candidate Campaigns: Partial Public Financing

| 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 | | | | | |
| Maryland §33-15-101 et seq. | Amount equal to 10% of spending limit for primary In 2006: \$208,687 | Individual contributions of up to \$250 | One-half of funds distributed by 1-to-1 match for opposed candidates, 1-to-3 match for unopposed candidates in primary; remaining funds split equally among all candidates with opposition in general; no funds to candidates without opposition in general. | Depends on amount in fund | \$0.30 x population of the state In 2006: \$2,086,871.73 |
| Michigan §169.261 et seq. | \$75,000 | Individual contributions of up to \$100, from MI residents only | 2-to-1 match in primary Flat grant in general | \$990,000 primary \$1,125,000 general | \$2 million each for primary and general |
| New Jersey §19:44A-1 et seq. | 2005: \$300,000 | Individual contributions of up to \$3,000 (2005) | 2-to-1 match; no payment for first \$84,000 raised | 2005: \$2.7 million primary \$6.4 million general | 2005: \$4.4 million primary \$9.6 million general |
| STATES WITH PUBLIC FUNDING FOR GUBERNATORIAL AND OTHER STATEWIDE CANDIDATES | | | | | |
| Florida^b §106.31 et seq. | Gov: \$150,000 Other cabinet: \$100,000 | Individual contributions of up to \$250 from Florida registered voters | 2-to-1 up to qualifying threshold, then 1-to-1 match | Up to spending limit | Gov: \$2/registered voter (approx. \$20 million) Cabinet: \$1/registered voter (approx. \$10 million) Limit for candidate with primary election opposition is 60% of these amounts |

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| Rhode Island §17-25-18 et seq. | None required for major party candidates Independents: amount equal to 20% of amount eligible to be matched | Individual contributions Gov: only first \$2,000/contrib. is eligible for matching Others: only first \$1,000 eligible Independents: minimum 250 private contributions of at least \$25 | 2-to-1 match for contributions up to \$500; 1-to-1 for all contributions exceeding \$500 | Gov: \$750,000 Others: \$187,500 | Gov: \$1.5 million per cycle Others: \$375,000 per cycle All: add'l one-third if challenged in primary |
| STATES WITH PUBLIC FUNDING FOR GUBERNATORIAL, OTHER STATEWIDE, AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES | | | | | |
| Hawaii §11-191 | Gov: \$100,000 Senate: \$2,500 House: \$1,500 | Individual contributions of up to \$100 | 1-to-1 match | Gov.: 10% of spending limit Legis.: 15% of spending limit Maximum for 2006: Gov: \$145,009 Legislator: varies according to population; ranges are as follows: House: \$1,748 - \$3,077 Senate: \$3,555 - \$6,985 | \$ amount x number of voters registered to vote in last general election in respective district: Gov: \$2.50 Legislator: \$1.40 Limits for 2006: Gov: \$1,450,088 Legislator: varies according to population; ranges are as follows: House: \$11,652 - \$20,510 Senate: \$23,699 - \$46,565 |
| Minnesota ^a §10A.30 et seq. | Gov: \$35,000 AG: \$15,000 Other SW: \$6,000 State Sen: \$3,000 State Rep: \$1,500 | Contributions from individuals eligible to vote in the state; only first \$50 of each contribution counts toward seed money threshold | Payments are the same for each candidate for a particular office. Account is divided as follows: 14% for gov & Lt gov 2.8% for AG 1.6% for sec state 1.6% for auditor general 23.3% for senators 46.6% for state reps | Up to 50% of the expenditure limit | Limits for 2006: ^a Gov: \$2,393,800 AG: \$399,000 State Sen: \$59,900 State Rep: \$30,100 Limits increase 10% for first-time candidates Limits increase 20% for candidates who win their primary by less than a 2-to-1 margin |
| Nebraska §32-1601 et seq. | Raise and spend 25% of spending limit from NE residents; 2008 amounts: Legislature: \$22,500 Note that there are no statewide races in NE in 2008. | 65% of the total (\$14,462.50 in 2008) must be from individuals | Candidate adhering to voluntary spending limits receives equivalent of opponent's estimated spending above limit | Not specified | 2006 limit: Legislature: \$89,000, \$44,500 of which may be spent in the primary Note that there are no statewide races in NE in 2008. |

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures
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| Wisconsin §11.50 et seq. | Gov & other SW: 5% of disbursement limitation Legislature: 10% of disbursement limitation | Individual contributions of up to \$100 | Flat grant Grant reduced dollar-for-dollar by any amount of PAC funding accepted | Up to 45% of spending limit, depending on amount of money in fund | Gov: \$1,078,000 State Sen: \$34,500 State Rep: \$17,250 |

(a) The limits shown are for the election year during the 2006 cycle. Much lower limits apply for expenditures in non-election years during the cycle.