

CLEAN ELECTIONS

Clean Elections Succeed in Maine and Arizona in 2002!

- Arizona elected the first Clean Elections governor, Janet Napolitano (D)
- In Arizona 45% state house and 17% of the state senate are “clean”.
- In Maine, 77% of the state senate and 55% of the state house are Democrats and Republicans who ran “clean,” along with one Green and three Independents.
- In 2002, 62% and 52% of eligible candidates in Maine and Arizona, respectively, ran as Clean Elections candidates.

The West Virginia Clean Elections Act (also called the Public Campaign Financing Act) creates a voluntary system of public funding for qualified political candidates who agree to accept spending limits and do no private fund raising.

How does it work?

Candidates who voluntarily select the Clean Election Option must:

- ✓ Collect a set number of \$5 qualifying contributions from **registered voters** in their districts. Qualifying contributions must be checks or money orders and will be audited.
- ✓ Agree to raise **no** private money for their campaign and to spend none of their own

Qualified candidates:

- ✓ receive a set amount of campaign funding on the date of certification as a Clean Elections candidate (based on the number of delegates per district. Contributions from 1996-2002 were examined to help set amounts).
- ✓ receive limited one-to-one matching funds (up to 3 times original funding) when outspent by a non-participating candidates or independent expenditures (Excess expenditure declarations by non-participating candidates must be filed within 48 hours).

Table 1. Number of qualifying contributions per member district required for candidates for the House of Delegates.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
House	75	100	125	150	175	200	225

Table 2. Number of qualifying contributions from registered voters required for state Circuit and Supreme Court Judges, Senate and Governor’s race.

Office	Qualifying contributions	Office	Qualifying contributions
Circuit Court	200	Senate (Districts 8 & 17)	350
Supreme Court	610	Governor (from at least 20 counties)	2,500
Senate	200		

Non-participating candidates may:

- ✓ raise private contributions from individuals, PACs and corporations based on the current campaign finance laws of West Virginia and spend an unlimited amount of their own money

Public Funding of Campaigns ---Where does the money come from?

- ✓ Qualifying contributions collected by candidates
- ✓ Tax check-off program (West Virginia taxpayers may designate \$3 of their taxes to the Clean Elections Fund, without increasing their tax bill)
- ✓ Unspent Seed Money Contributions. “Seed money” is a contribution of no more than \$100 made by an individual to be used only prior to or during the qualifying period.
- ✓ Unspent Clean Election funds (For example, any funds left over after unsuccessful primary would be returned.)
- ✓ Voluntary donation
- ✓ Fines for violation of election laws (such as late filing)
- ✓ Interest generated by the fund
- ✓ Other sources designated by the legislature

Maine has designated \$2 million from general revenue. The Clean Elections Commission of Arizona returned \$3.8 million in surplus to the general revenue budget in 2003. Arizona’s Clean Elections Act is funded primarily from a 10% surcharge on all civil and criminal penalties.

Allocations of funds:

Eligible candidates receive Clean Elections funding for the primary election within 48 hours of certification and after complying with all other eligibility requirements (no earlier than the beginning of the Primary Election campaign period).

Table 3. Amount of funding for Clean Elections Candidates in the House of Delegates (For example: \$7,500 for the primary and \$7,500 for the general election).

Members per district	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Amount of funding	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$17,500	\$20,000	\$22,500

Table 4. Amount of Clean Elections funding for state Senate and Gubernatorial races (For example: \$20,000 for the primary and \$20,000 for the general election).

Office	Amount of funding*
Senate	\$20,000
Senate (Districts 8 & 17)	\$35,000
Circuit Court	\$20,000
Supreme Court	\$250,000
Governor	\$1,000,000

*A candidate would receive this amount in the primary and then the same amount in the general. For instance, the total for a Circuit Court candidate is \$40,000 if he/she wins the primary election.

For more information: Janet Fout, Co-ordinator, Citizens for Clean Elections, 304-522-0246, ohvec@ohvec.org or Julie Archer, Research Analyst, Mountain State Research and Education Foundation, 304-346-5891, julie@wvcag.org.