



How would I qualify for public financing?

1 File a Declaration of Intent

Let the State Election Commission know that you plan to participate by filing a Declaration of Intent stating that:

- ✓ You intend to seek public financing
- ✓ You agree to adhere to spending limits
- ✓ You agree to lawfully use public funds
- ✓ You will repay any amount improperly spent

2 Collect qualifying contributions

For this Pilot Project, from January 1, 2011 until January 28, 2012, you may accept “**exploratory contributions**” of up to \$1000 to explore your chances of election and to qualify for public campaign financing. You may also use \$1000 of your own money. Any aggregate amount over \$20,000 must be deposited to the Pilot Project Fund.

To qualify for public financing, you must collect at least 500 “**qualifying contributions**” by January 28, 2012. These verifiable contributions of \$1 to \$100 must come from registered voters - at least 10 percent of the total from **each Congressional district**. You must raise at least \$35,000, and may raise up to \$50,000. Any amount in excess of \$50,000 will be deposited into the Project Fund. You must keep detailed receipts of all seed money and qualifying contributions.

3 Present documentation to the State Election Commission

After collecting the required qualifying contributions, you must submit them to the State Election Commission to be deposited into the Public Campaign Financing Pilot Project Fund. The Election Commission will then determine whether you complied with all of the following:

- ✓ Obtained, either personally or through your committee, the required number of qualifying contributions
- ✓ Have not accepted other contributions, except for seed money contributions, and otherwise complied with the contribution restrictions
- ✓ Are eligible to appear on the primary or general election ballot
- ✓ Met all other requirements of the Act

4 Become a certified candidate and receive initial funding

Once your information is reviewed and you are certified by the State Election Commission, you will receive a check or electronic transfer in the amount of the initial public financing benefit for which you qualify.

How much money would I get?



The amount of funding you would receive varies depending on whether the primary and general elections are contested.

For a contested primary election, you will receive \$200,000 in the initial grant, minus the amount of qualifying contributions collected. For an uncontested primary, the amount is \$50,000, less qualifying contributions.

In a contested general election, you may receive up to \$350,000 from the fund, minus any funds remaining unspent or unobligated after the primary election. In an uncontested general election, you will receive \$35,000.

What if I'm outspent by an opponent?

If you are outspent by a non-participating opponent, you may be eligible for additional increments of public financing of up to \$400,000 for a Primary and up to \$700,000 for the General Election.

What if I'm the target of attack ads?

Certified candidates would also be eligible for additional funds to respond to independent expenditures that attack them or benefit an opponent.

Can I spend my own money?

No. Once you are certified, you may not spend your own money. You may not accept any additional contributions from any other sources, including family. Should you wish to withdraw from the public financing program, you will be required to pay back any public funds you have received.

Public Campaign Financing

Supreme Court Pilot Project

.....

In 2010, the WV Legislature adopted the WV Supreme Court Public Financing Pilot Project for 2012. Candidates for the two Supreme Court seats on the ballot in the 2012 election will have the option of running for office free from direct dependence on private campaign contributions. The Pilot Project established an optional public financing system for Supreme Court candidates who agree to abide by contribution and spending limits and reject all private donations. Public campaign financing will free candidates from the money chase. Publicly financed candidates will not have to worry about the appearance of receiving contributions from entities whose cases may at some time be argued before them in Court.

.....

Why should candidates support it?

- ✓ Candidates are able to avoid any appearance of undue influence from contributors
- ✓ Public financing matching fund protections mean candidates have adequate resources to run a competitive campaign and the ability to respond to negative ads or mailings.
- ✓ It works. Whether Republican or Democrat, incumbent or challenger, the majority of those seeking office in Maine, Arizona and Connecticut choose public financing. Seven other states and two cities have similar programs.
- ✓ Public financing has public support. Nationally, polls indicate the majority of voters, regardless of party affiliation, support proposals by which candidates who agree to spending limits and who agree not to accept private contributions could qualify for a set amount of money from a public fund. These surveys show support for such programs growing over time.

Find out how Public Financing works

West Virginia candidates for the state Senate and House of Delegates could also have the opportunity to qualify for public campaign financing, if the Legislature adopts the WV Public Campaign Financing Act. This program would provide legislative candidates with the financial resources necessary to run a competitive campaign.

Learn More...

WV Citizens for Clean Elections can provide materials and give presentations to your group. We have materials that can teach you and others about public campaign financing and how you can support our efforts to make public financing an option for all candidates in West Virginia.

West Virginia Citizens for Clean Elections
P.O. Box 6753
Huntington, WV 25773-6753
Phone: 304-522-0246
Phone: 304-847-5121
Fax: 304-522-4079
www.wvoter-owned.org

A guide to a new kind of politics



Includes useful information about
WV Supreme Court Pilot Project

This Pilot Project makes public campaign financing available to state Supreme Court candidates in 2012.
Learn More...

Prepared by:

West Virginia Citizens for Clean Elections

www.wvoter-owned.org