

# Campaign Finance Reform and Full Public Financing

## The Strongest Law in the Nation

**Ad books, Lobbyist, and Contractor Contributions** are prohibited. Solicitation is also prohibited. Lobbyists are also specifically prohibited from being involved in any candidate’s fundraising activities.

**State Contractor Ban:** Prohibits any contractor (including principals and immediate family) on or seeking to be on the state’s pre-qualification list from donating to legislator affiliated PACs and statewide and legislative campaigns. Also, any individual or business doing more than \$50,000 of business with an agency/branch cannot donate to candidates for office that oversee that agency/branch.

**Funding**—Creates a Citizens Election Fund paid for using property escheats.

### QUALIFYING LEVELS AND GRANTS FOR PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES

	Qualifying Threshold (contributions of \$100 or less)	Primary Grant	General Election
<b>Governor</b>	\$250,000	\$1.25 million	\$3 million
<b>Statewide</b>	\$75,000	\$375,000	\$750,000
<b>State Senate</b>	\$15,000	\$35,000 (\$75K in party dominant district)	\$85,000
<b>House</b>	\$5,000	\$10,000 (\$25K in party dominant district)	\$25,000

**Minor Party and Petitioning Candidates**—Non-major party candidates would have to “buy-in” the same way major party candidates do, that is by reaching the same qualifying thresholds. Once qualified, non-major party candidates would be eligible for a 3-tiered CEF grant modeled on the federal presidential financing system—with full financing provided to those meeting the same 20% electoral support levels as major parties.

**Contributions**—Candidates who participate cannot accept donations from individuals in excess of \$100 or from prohibited donors such as contractors and lobbyists. Ad books are prohibited. Non-participating candidates are governed by existing contribution limits as amended. Lobbyist, contractor, and ad book prohibitions apply to participating and non-participating candidates.

**Individual contributions to candidates:**

Governor \$3,500; Statewide \$2,000; Senate \$1,000; House \$250; other \$250

**Individual contributions to PACs:**

\$750 to PACs; \$1,000 to caucus PACs; \$750 labor/Bus PAC

**PAC contributions to non-participating candidates:**

\$5k to Governor; Statewide \$3k; Senate \$1,500; House \$750, or exploratory \$375 (\$250 for House)

**State Party Contributions (non-participating):**

Governor \$50k; Statewide \$35k; Senate \$10k; House \$5k; \$2,500 to PACs, \$10k caucus PACs

**Town Committees (non-participating):**

Governor \$7,500; Statewide \$5k; Senate \$3k; House \$1,500; \$1,500 PACs; \$2k caucus PACs

**Spending Limits**—The applicable spending limit is the eligible grant amount plus qualifying contributions.

**Independent and Excess Expenditure Matching Grants**—Participating candidates may receive additional funds to match spending by their opponent in excess of the spending limit. In addition to the excess expenditure match, candidates are eligible to receive an additional match for independent expenditures that have been made targeting their defeat.

**Timing of Matching Funds**—Candidates whose opponent has reached 90% of the spending limit, will have escrow funds placed into their account from the comptroller in the amount of 25% of the grant amount to be immediately drawn down in the event an opponent overspends. Additional escrow funds would be placed in participating candidates' accounts as their opponents continue to overspend.

**Reporting**—In addition to current reporting requirements, stronger requirements would be in place to ensure the names and addresses of all donors are reported. Additionally, all treasurers must duly report when an expenditure is made causing the campaign to exceed 90% and 100% of the limit. Campaigns exceeding these thresholds are required to report more frequently.

**Caucus and Leadership PACs**—The bill limits caucus and leadership PACs to no more than 3 per caucus. Both caucus and leadership PACs have the same contribution/expenditure limits and cannot accept donations from contractors, lobbyists, or receive ad book revenues. Caucus/leadership PACs—along with party and town committee PACs, may provide limited in-kind services to participating candidates based upon the Maine and Arizona models.

