

# Overview of Public Campaign Financing Process



Candidate thinks about running as a publicly funded candidate



Candidate contacts City Elections Officer or visits City Elections Website for information. Candidate reads "Participating Candidate Information Packet"



Candidate meets voters and begins collecting \$5 qualifying contributions, in-kind contributions and \$100 seed money contributions. (Qualifying contributions are documented on 210-Q form)



Candidate files Declaration of Intent to Participate with Auditor. Makes commitment to follow program rules. Candidate is now called a "Participating Candidate"



Seed money contributions (plus qualifying contributions) are used by the candidate to organize efforts to qualify for public funding. Seed money is limited to \$100 from any one source. Total not to exceed \$15,000 for Comm/Auditor & \$20,000 for Mayor candidates



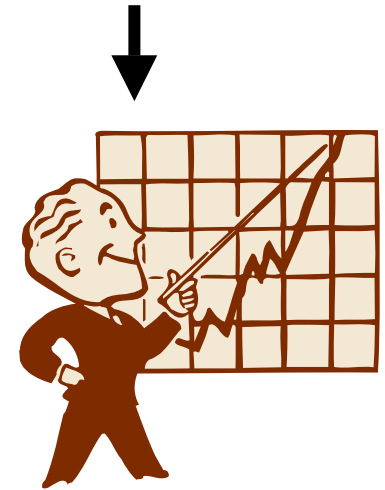
In-Kind contributions (goods or services having monetary value) can also be accepted. Total not to exceed \$7,500 for Comm/Auditor, \$10,000 for Mayor candidates



If prohibited contributions are accepted, returns \$ within 5 business days and files Request to Remain Eligible (210-P).



Candidate tracks and reports contributions and expenditures & ensures that program rules are followed. (Qualifying contributions must be \$5 exactly from residents only. Seed money must not exceed \$100 from any source or exceed total limit).



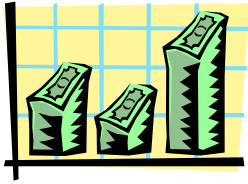
Candidate has until qualifying deadline to submit Request for Certification (210-C form) along with original qualifying forms and other documentation



Auditor reviews Request for Certification & documentation. Issues Determination Letter within 5 business days

If Auditor determines candidate is eligible, Auditor disburses funds (See page 3 for more information)





## Primary Election Funding

Candidates who receive a Determination Letter granting Certification Status are called "Certified Candidates" and are eligible to receive the initial primary allocation of \$150,000 for Commissioner/Auditor Candidates and \$200,000 for Mayor Candidates.

The total amount of seed money and qualifying contributions collected by the Certified Candidate is deducted from their initial primary allocation. For example, a Certified Candidate for Commissioner who raised \$10,000 in seed money and \$5,000 in qualifying contributions would receive an initial primary allocation of \$135,000.

Candidates who are certified more than 90 days before the Primary Election Date receive 30% of the initial primary allocation within 10 days of Determination Letter and the remaining 70% after 90<sup>th</sup> day.

Candidates who are certified less than 90 days before the Primary Election Date receive 100% within 10 bus days.

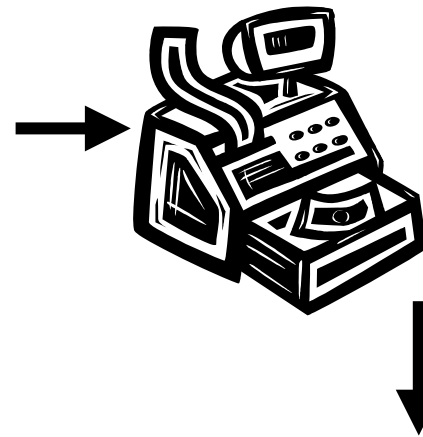


## Single Candidates to Repay Funds

If after the candidate withdrawal deadline a Certified Candidate is the only candidate for a particular office, he or she must repay any part of the initial primary allocation he or she has received. The deadline to repay is the deadline to file the 1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Election C&E Report.



Candidates run their campaigns. Certified Candidates may only use public funds (and allowed in-kind contributions) and must follow City and State guidelines for allowed expenditures. Nonparticipating candidates have no restrictions on expenditures or contributions



All candidates and committees must follow State Campaign Finance guidelines and file detailed Contribution & Expenditure Reports per the State reporting schedule with the City Elections Officer

Certified Candidates are responsible for tracking these Nonparticipating Candidate & Independent Expenditure Reports to see if they are eligible to apply for limited matching funds.

Third parties making independent expenditures must file a City Independent Expenditure Report each time they make \$1,000 or more in expenditures in support of or opposition to a candidate for City office

Nonparticipating Candidates must also file additional summary reports if their contributions or expenditures exceed the initial primary allocation received by their opponents.

- 100% Report when they exceed amount
- Increment Reports when their subsequent c & e's exceed \$5,000 for Comm/Auditor Candidates or \$7,500 for Mayor Candidates





### Limited Matching Funds - Primary Election

Certified Candidates may be eligible to receive matching funds if they are outspent by an opposing nonparticipating candidate, independent expenditures, or a combination of the two. (Matching funds are triggered when these expenditures exceed \$150,000 for Commissioner/Auditor and \$200,000 for Mayor).

Certified Candidates are responsible for tracking nonparticipating candidate reports & independent expenditure reports. If they believe they are eligible, they should file a Request for Matching Funds (AUD 210-M) with the Auditor.

In the Primary Election, matching funds are limited to \$150,000 for each Commissioner/Auditor race and \$200,000 for each Mayor race. If there is more than one certified candidate for a particular office, the amount is divided and available equally to all eligible certified candidates for that office.



### Penalties



Certified Candidates are subject to penalties if they violate any provisions of the Campaign Finance Fund Code & Administrative Rules. Penalties may include revocation of certification and requirement to repay all public funds plus 12% interest.

Nonparticipating Candidates & Parties Making Independent Expenditures are subject to penalties for failure to file timely or complete reports. The penalty matrix is similar to the Secretary of State's penalty matrix.



## Primary Election Day!

Any candidate receiving more than 50% of vote is elected

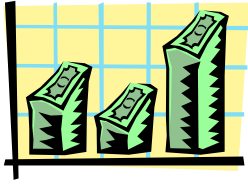
If no candidate receives more than 50%, the top two vote getters run-off in the General



If a Certified Candidate wins at the Primary, he or she must repay all unspent public funds to the City. The deadline for repayment is the deadline to file the Post-Election C&E report.

If a Certified Candidate is nominated at the Primary, he or she is eligible for additional public funds in the General. See page 7 for more information.

If a Certified Candidate is unsuccessful at the Primary, he or she must repay all unspent public funds to the City. The deadline for repayment is the deadline to file the Post Election C&E Report.



### **General Election Funding**

Certified Candidates who are nominated at the Primary Election are eligible to receive an initial general allocation of \$200,000 for Commissioner/Auditor Candidates and \$250,000 for Mayor Candidates.

Any unspent revenues left over from the Primary Election are deducted from their initial general allocation. For example, a Certified Candidate for Commissioner who has \$10,000 remaining from the Primary Election (as reported on Post-Election Report) would receive an initial general allocation of \$190,000.

Candidates receive 30% of initial general allocation 30 days after the Primary Election and the remaining 70% 120 days before the General Election.



### **Limited Matching Funds - General Election**

Certified Candidates may be eligible to receive matching funds if they are outspent by an opposing nonparticipating candidate, independent expenditures, or a combination of the two. (Matching funds are triggered when these expenditures exceed \$200,000 for Commissioner/Auditor and \$250,000 for Mayor).

If a Certified Candidate believes he or she is eligible for matching funds, he or she should file a Request for Matching Funds (AUD 210-M) with the Auditor.

In the General Election, matching funds are limited to \$400,000 for each Commissioner/Auditor race and \$500,000 for each Mayor race. If there is more than one certified candidate for a particular office, the amount is divided and available equally to all eligible certified candidates for that office.



All Reporting Requirements & Penalties also apply in General Election.



If a Certified Candidate wins at the General, he or she must repay all unspent public funds to the City. The deadline for repayment is the deadline to file the Post-Election C&E report.

If a Certified Candidate is unsuccessful at the General, he or she must repay all unspent public funds to the City. The deadline for repayment is the deadline to file the Post Election C&E Report.



Candidates may appeal determinations of the Auditor to Hearings Officer.