Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Clean Elections figures are increased for the 2002 election

Several contribution and expenditure limits under the Clean Elections Law have been adjusted for inflation, as required by the new law, the Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today.

The aggregate limits for all nine of the offices covered by the law have increased, as have the maximum amounts of public funds for which candidates will be eligible. The new limits apply to the 2002 state election cycle, which starts on Saturday, March 31, 2001.

As of that date, candidates for the six statewide offices, Governor's Council, the Senate or the House who wish to have the option to become eligible for public funds must observe certain spending and contribution limits and also may not use any funds carried over from a previous election cycle.

M.G.L. Chapter 55A, Section 13 requires OCPF to adjust various figures for inflation by Feb. 1 of the year preceding an election year, using a formula based on the Consumer Price Index for the Boston Metropolitan Area from December 1998 to December 2000. The increase in the CPI for the period was 8.14 percent.

Adjustments were made to the aggregate allowable, or private, contribution amounts that may be raised by a participating candidate; the amount of Clean Elections funds that may be distributed to a participant; and the limit for in-kind contributions to a participant. The expenditure limits were then adjusted using the procedure outlined in Section 13. The new figures, as well as a table of the old figures in the law as passed in November 1998, are attached.

Clean Elections indexing press release February 6, 2001 Page 2

The base spending limit for participating gubernatorial candidates, for example, was increased from \$3 million to \$3,244,200 for the cycle. The primary campaign limit rose from \$1.8 million to \$1,944,100, while the general election campaign limit rose from \$1.2 million to \$1,300,100. The base amount of public funds available to a participant rose from \$2,550,000 to \$2,757,600. That amount would increase for participating candidates whose nonparticipating opponents exceed the Clean Elections spending limit for the applicable office; a participating gubernatorial candidate could receive up to an additional \$3,730,800 in the cycle if his opponents in the primary and general elections spend that much more than the Clean Elections limit, with a corresponding rise in the participant's spending cap.

The total amount of allowable contributions that may be raised by a gubernatorial candidate increased from \$450,000 to \$486,600. The in-kind contribution limit grew from \$35,000 to \$37,800 for the cycle.

For participants running for state representative, the base spending limit for the office has increased from \$30,000 to \$32,400 in the cycle. The primary campaign limit rose from \$18,000 to \$19,500 and the general limit rose from \$12,000 to \$12,900. Aggregate base Clean Elections funds available will rise from \$24,000 to \$25,900, with up to an additional \$38,900 available to a participant whose opponents in the primary and general elections spend that much more than the Clean Elections limit. The allowable contribution limit increased from \$6,000 to \$6,500.

The adjustments do not affect the maximum amount that may be contributed to a participating candidate by an individual or political committee, which remains at \$100 per election cycle. Also unchanged was the amount of an individual qualifying contribution to help a candidate become eligible for Clean Elections. Such a contribution must be at least \$5 and no more than \$100, must be made during the qualifying period and must come from a registered voter in a candidate's district. The total amount of qualifying contributions required varies by the office sought, from 200 for state representative to 6,000 for governor.

OCPF has scheduled a series of seminars in the coming weeks for candidates, committees and the public to help them understand the new law. A briefing for the press is also being planned for mid-March.

Clean Elections is a voluntary system of public financing of candidates for state office that was enacted by an initiative petition passed by voters in the 1998 state election. Further information on the program is available on OCPF's website at www.state.ma.us/ocpf.

Massachusetts Clean Elections Contribution and Spending Limits

As of 2/1/01

2002 Election Cycle

		Total I		
	Expenditure limit	Allowable Contributions	Clean Election Funds	Total In-kind contribution limit
Governor	\$3,244,200	\$486,600	\$2,757,600	\$37,800
Lt. Governor	\$811,100	\$121,100	\$690,000	\$21,600
Attorney General	\$811,000	\$162,200	\$648,800	\$21,600
Treasurer	\$811,000	\$162,200	\$648,800	\$21,600
Auditor	\$270,400	\$54,100	\$216,300	\$16,200
Secretary of State	\$270,400	\$54,100	\$216,300	\$16,200
Governor's Councilor	\$43,300	\$8,700	\$34,600	\$3,200
Senator	\$97,400	\$19,500	\$77,900	\$6,500
Representative	\$32,400	\$6,500	\$25,900	\$3,200

Primary

		Total Base Funds			
Office	Expenditure limit	Allowable contributions	Clean Election Funds*	Maximum additional matching funds available**	Maximum Clean Election funds#
Governor	\$1,944,100	\$322,000	\$1,622,100	\$2,266,100	\$3,888,200
Lt. Governor	\$486,700	\$72,500	\$414,200	\$559,200	\$973,400
Attorney General	\$486,600	\$97,300	\$389,300	\$583,900	\$973,200
Treasurer	\$486,600	\$97,300	\$389,300	\$583,900	\$973,200
Auditor	\$162,300	\$32,500	\$129,800	\$194,800	\$324,600
Secretary of State	\$162,300	\$32,500	\$129,800	\$194,800	\$324,600
Governor's Councilor	\$25,900	\$5,400	\$20,500	\$31,300	\$51,800
Senator	\$58,400	\$11,900	\$46,500	\$70,300	\$116,800
Representative	\$19,500	\$3,300	\$16,200	\$22,800	\$39,000

^{*} Unopposed candidates receive half of this amount.

** Amount distributed to match spending by nonparticipating opponent of up to twice the spending limit. Participant receiving the funds does not raise any additional private funds.

[#] Total of original Clean Election funds plus maximum additional matching funds.

General Election

		Total Base Funds			
Office	Expenditure limit	Allowable contributions	Clean Election Funds*	Maximum additional matching funds available**	Maximum Clean Election Funds#
Governor	\$1,300,100	\$164,600	\$1,135,500	\$1,464,700	\$2,600,200
Lt. Governor	\$324,400	\$48,600	\$275,800	\$0	\$275,800
Attorney General	\$324,400	\$64,900	\$259,500	\$389,300	\$648,800
Treasurer	\$324,400	\$64,900	\$259,500	\$389,300	\$648,800
Auditor	\$108,100	\$21,600	\$86,500	\$129,700	\$216,200
Secretary of State	\$108,100	\$21,600	\$86,500	\$129,700	\$216,200
Governor's Councilor	\$17,400	\$3,300	\$14,100	\$20,700	\$34,800
Senator	\$39,000	\$7,600	\$31,400	\$46,600	\$78,000
Representative	\$12,900	\$3,200	\$9,700	\$16,100	\$25,800

^{*} Unopposed candidates receive half of this amount.

** Amount distributed to match spending by nonparticipating opponent of up to twice the spending limit. Participant receiving the funds does not raise any additional private funds.

[#] Total of original Clean Election funds plus maximum additional matching funds.

Previous Massachusetts Clean Elections Contribution and Spending Limits

Expire 1/31/01

Election Cycle

		Total Ba		
	Expenditure limit	Allowable Contributions	Clean Election Funds	Total In Kind Contribution Limit
Governor	3,000,000	450,000	2,550,000	35,000
Lt. Governor	750,000	112,000	638,000	20,000
Attorney General	750,000	150,000	600,000	20,000
Treasurer	750,000	150,000	600,000	20,000
Auditor	250,000	50,000	200,000	15,000
Secretary of State	250,000	50,000	200,000	15,000
Governor's Councilor	40,000	8,000	32,000	3,000
Senator	90,000	18,000	72,000	
Representative	30,000			

Primary

		Total B		
	Expenditure limit	Allowable contributions	Clean Elections Funds*	Maximum Additional matching funds available
Governor	1,800,000	300,000	1,500,000	2,100,000
Lt. Governor	450,000	67,000	383,000	517,000
Attorney General	450,000	90,000	360,000	540,000
Treasurer	450,000	90,000	360,000	540,000
Auditor	150,000	30,000	120,000	180,000
Secretary of State	150,000	30,000	120,000	180,000
Governor's Councilor	24,000	5,000	19,000	29,000
Senator	54,000	11,000	43,000	65,000
Representative	18,000	3,000	15,000	21,000

General Election

		Total B		
	Expenditure limit	Allowable contributions	Clean Elections Funds*	Maximum Additional matching funds available
Governor	1,200,000	150,000	1,050,000	1,350,000
Lt. Governor	300,000	45,000	255,000	345,000
Attorney General	300,000	60,000	240,000	360,000
Treasurer	300,000	60,000	240,000	360,000
Auditor	100,000	20,000	80,000	120,000
Secretary of State	100,000	20,000	80,000	120,000
Governor's Councilor	16,000	3,000	13,000	19,000
Senator	36,000	7,000	29,000	43,000
Representative	12,000	3,000	9,000	15,000