

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Statewide candidates file spending limit statements for public financing program

BOSTON -- Sixteen candidates who are seeking their parties' nominations for statewide office have filed statements saying whether they intend to limit their spending in the 2006 primary and general elections, the Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today.

Nine of those candidates agreed to abide by statutory spending limits by the deadline of 5 p.m. today. The declarations, which candidates were required to file in order to get on the ballot, are binding for both the primary and general elections. (Unenrolled candidates, including those in the Green/Rainbow political designation, must file their statements by Aug. 29, which is the deadline for them to file their nomination papers with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.)

Today's declarations mean three contested statewide races -- for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary -- are subject to spending limits in the primary. Three candidates in those races, all on the Democratic side, who declined to participate in the public funding program must file estimates of their spending by Friday for possible adjustment of the limits for their participating opponents.

The state's system of public financing offers public funds (depending on availability) to statewide candidates in return for their agreeing to spending limits, which vary according to the office sought. For example, participating gubernatorial candidates are limited to expenditures of \$1.5 million for the primary campaign (June 7-Sept. 19) and \$1.5 million for the general election campaign (Sept. 20-Nov. 7). In return, those candidates are eligible for up to \$750,000 in matching funds for each of the two periods, for a total of \$1.5 million in funding.

The amount of money in the State Election Campaign Fund that will be available to participating candidates will be determined at the end of June. OCPF estimates the amount of available funds at just over \$1.5 million, to be divided evenly between the primary and general election campaigns. (The balance of the fund is currently \$1,539,059.)

State law calls for gubernatorial candidates to receive any available funds first, with the remainder spilling over proportionately to the other statewide races. Each gubernatorial candidate who opts into the system is eligible to receive up to \$750,000 in matching funds for the primary if he or she initially submits at least \$75,000 in qualifying contributions by July 21. If that occurs, it is likely that due to the limited amount available in the fund, the gubernatorial candidates will ultimately be eligible for matching funds of only a fraction of that \$750,000 and the non-gubernatorial participating candidates will not receive any public money.

Candidates who chose not to participate in the public financing system but are opposed by at least one participating candidate in their primary must file a statement with OCPF stating the maximum amount that they will spend in the primary campaign. Those statements are due by 5 p.m. this Friday, June 9. Participating candidates' limits will be raised to match the highest amount stated by a non-participating candidate. The amount of public funds for which those participating candidates are eligible, however, does not change.

In 1998, 11 statewide candidates received public funds totaling \$1,719,615. The bulk of the money that year went to Democratic gubernatorial candidate Scott Harshbarger, who received \$937,649 -- \$219,183 in the primary and \$718,466 in the general election campaign.

More information on the public financing program, including an overview and a summary of the last application of the system in 1998, may be found on OCPF's website at http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/homepage_pubfin.htm.

A table of each candidate's decision regarding public financing follows.

Participation in Public Financing 2006 Statewide Candidates

<u>Office/limit</u>	<u>Agreed to limits</u>	<u>Did not agree</u>
Governor (\$1.5 million primary/ \$1.5 million general*)	Deval Patrick (D) Thomas Reilly (D)	Kerry Healey (R) Chris Gabrieli (D) #
Lieutenant Governor (\$625,000 primary*)	Timothy Murray (D) Andrea Silbert (D)	Deborah Goldberg (D) # Reed Hillman (R)
Attorney General (\$625,000 primary/ \$625,000 general)	Martha Coakley (D) Larry Frisoli (R)	
Treasurer (\$375,000 primary/ \$375,000 general)	Ronald Davy (R)	Tim Cahill (D)
Secretary (\$375,000 primary/ \$375,000 general)	John Bonifaz (D)	William Galvin (D) #
Auditor (\$375,000 primary/ \$375,000 general)	Earle Stroll (R)	Joseph DeNucci (D)

* Because the nominees for governor and lieutenant governor run as a team after the primary, they are both included in the gubernatorial candidate's general election spending limit.

These non-participating candidates, who are opposed by at least one participating candidate in the primary, must file a statement with OCPF stating their total expenditures for the primary campaign. Those statement are due by the close of business June 9.

Note: Unenrolled candidates, who do not run in a primary, must notify OCPF whether they will abide by spending limits by Aug. 29.