

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Office of Campaign and Political Finance*

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## **Unenrolled candidates opt for spending limits and public financing eligibility**

BOSTON – Seven unenrolled candidates who are seeking statewide office this year have filed statements saying whether they intend to limit their spending in the November general election, the Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today.

All seven of the candidates agreed to abide by statutory spending limits by the deadline of 5 p.m. today, which was also the deadline for submitting nomination papers to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The declarations, which candidates were required to file with OCPF in order to get on the ballot, are binding for the general election. (Democratic and Republican candidates, whose primaries are on Sept. 19, submitted similar statements covering both the primary and general campaigns in early June.)

The unenrolled candidates who filed by today's deadline are: Christy Mihos and Grace Ross, candidates for governor; John Sullivan and Wendy Van Horne, lieutenant governor; James O'Keefe, treasurer; Jill Stein, secretary; and Rand Wilson, auditor. (Ross, Van Horne, O'Keefe and Stein are running under the political designation of the Green-Rainbow Party.)

The state's system of public financing offers public funds 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 general election campaign. In return, each candidate is eligible for up to \$750,000 in matching funds for the general election, subject to availability of funds.

A total of \$804,866.30 is available to candidates in the general election, though the ultimate allotment to individual candidates will not be known until after the primary election, when the actual roster of candidates will be known. An identical amount was made available for the primary and has already been distributed to two Democratic candidates, Deval Patrick and Thomas Reilly, who each received \$402,433.30.

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State law calls for gubernatorial candidates to receive any available funds first, with the remainder spilling over proportionately to the other statewide races. In addition, the statutory spending limits are also subject to adjustment if a participating candidate is opposed by a non-participant, who is required to set a self-imposed ceiling.

The current statewide candidates and their decisions on spending limits/public funding are:

- **Governor** -- Agreed to limits: Deval Patrick (D), Thomas Reilly (D), Christy Mihos (U), and Grace Ross (G-R). Did not agree to limits: Christopher Gabrieli (D) and Kerry Healey (R)
- **Lieutenant Governor** -- Agreed to limits: Timothy Murray (D), Andrea Silbert (D), John Sullivan (U), Wendy Van Horne(G-R). Did not agree: Deborah Goldberg (D) and Reed Hillman (R).
- **Attorney General** – Agreed to limits: Martha Coakley (D) and Larry Frisoli (R).
- **Treasurer** – Agreed to limits: James O’Keefe (G-R). Did not agree: Timothy Cahill (D).
- **Secretary** – Agreed to limits: John Bonifaz (D) and Jill Stein (G-R). Did not agree: William Galvin (D).
- **Auditor**: Agreed to limits: Rand Wilson (U). Did not agree: Joseph DeNucci (D).

In 1998, the last time this statewide public finance program was in effect, eight 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 [www.mass.gov/ocpf/homepage\\_pubfin.htm](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/homepage_pubfin.htm).