

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sept. 2, 2010

Four statewide candidates receive \$525,163 in public campaign funds for primary

BOSTON - Three candidates for state auditor and one candidate for state treasurer have received a total of \$525,163 in matching public funds for their primary election campaigns, according to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

Auditor candidates Suzanne Bump and Mike Lake in the Democratic primary, and Mary Connaughton in the Republican primary, submitted necessary qualifying contributions to receive funding. Treasurer candidate Stephen Murphy also qualified for public funds for the Democratic primary.

Each candidate's campaign account received public financing based on the amount of qualifying contributions they submitted. The campaigns received these totals for the primary:

Stephen Murphy:	\$160,018
Suzanne Bump:	\$143,640
Mary Connaughton:	\$137,288
Mike Lake:	\$84,217

Under the public financing law, M.G.L. Chapter 55C, a statewide candidate who is opposed, has agreed to observe a statutory spending limit, and submits the minimum amount of qualifying contributions is eligible to receive matching funds from the state election campaign fund.

The State Election Campaign Fund, which is funded by a taxpayer check-off on state income tax returns, **currently contains \$1,038,676**. These funds will be distributed to eligible candidates in the state's general election.

The law calls for participating candidates for governor to be funded first, with any remaining funds to be distributed to candidates for the other five statewide offices who are eligible to receive public financing. No candidates for governor were eligible to receive public funds for the primary election because Charles Baker and Gov. Deval Patrick are unopposed in their respective primaries and did not agree to spending limits. Unenrolled gubernatorial candidates Timothy Cahill and Jill Stein filed statements agreeing to spending limits and are eligible for up to \$750,000 in matching funds for the general election, subject to submitting the necessary qualifying contributions and the availability of funds.

Candidates must agree to abide by statutory spending limits for both the primary and general elections in order to be eligible to receive matching funds. For example, participating gubernatorial candidates are limited to expenditures of \$1.5 million for the general election campaign.

After the primary, all candidates who have not agreed to limit spending and who are opposed in the general election by candidates who have agreed to limit spending will have to declare their maximum intended spending for the final seven-week general election campaign. The highest declared amount will become the spending limit for all candidates in that campaign.