

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Four statewide candidates are certified to receive public campaign funds for primary

BOSTON - Three candidates for state auditor and one candidate for state treasurer have qualified for 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, have submitted the necessary qualifying contributions and were certified by OCPF to receive funding. Treasurer candidate Stephen Murphy also qualified and was certified 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 have received these amounts:

Suzanne Bump:	\$100,560
Mary Connaughton:	\$87,968
Stephen Murphy:	\$79,378
Mike Lake:	\$58,484

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 public matching funds.

The State Election Campaign Fund, which is funded by a taxpayer check-off on state income tax returns, contained \$1,563,839 as of June 30, according to the state Comptroller's Office. That amount was split in half, with half available for the primary election and half for the general election. The law calls for 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 are 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.

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. The four candidates receiving public financing originally agreed to the statutory limit of \$375,000 for the primary, but that figure was increased for all relevant races because their opponents, who are not participating in the public financing program, set higher spending limits. Democratic auditor candidates Bump and Lake can spend up to \$1.3 million, the amount set by their primary opponent, Guy Glodis. In the Democratic primary for treasurer, Stephen Murphy's primary opponent, Steven Grossman, set the limit at \$3.5 million. In the Republican primary for auditor, Connaughton's limit is \$26.9 billion, the limit set by her opponent, Kamal Jain.

The declared limits cover only the primary campaign period: June 2 to Sept. 14.

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 self-imposed limit for the final seven-week general election campaign.