

Summary of Cities with Public Funding for Candidates

Prepared by MassVOTE, Commonwealth Education Project, Common Cause of MA from chart provided by the Center for Governmental Studies, Los Angeles CA

City	Population	Year Started	Offices Covered	Qualifying Threshold	Allocation Method - Ratio of Matching Funds or Direct Grant
Austin	656,562	1994	City Council	None. Public financing program candidates receive funds if in a runoff.	Equal distribution of available funds among qualifying candidates in a runoff election. The public funds are distributed as a lump-sum grant. If no eligible candidate is in a runoff election, the funds are reserved for future elections.
Boulder	94,673	1999	City Council	10% of spending limit in contributions of \$25 or less: \$1,174 (2001).	\$1 in public funds for every \$1 in contributions.
Long Beach	461,522	1994	Council, Mayor and other city offices	Council: \$5,000 in contributions of \$100 or less. Mayor: \$20,000 in contributions of \$200 or less. Other Citywide Office: \$10,000 in contributions of \$150 or less.	Primary: \$1 in public funds for every \$2 in contributions. General: \$1 in public funds for every \$1 in contributions.
Los Angeles	3,694,820	1990	Council, Mayor and other city offices	Council: \$25,000 in contributions of \$250 or less. City Attorney and Controller: \$75,000 in contributions of \$500 or less. Mayor: \$150,000 in contributions of \$500 or less.	Primary: \$1 in public funds for every \$1 in contributions from individuals, up to \$250 per contributor for Council candidates and up to \$500 per contributor for citywide candidates. Runoff: candidate receives a lump-sum grant of one-sixth of the maximum matching funds available, plus a \$1 : \$1 match for individual contributions up to \$250 per contributor for Council candidates and up to \$500 per contributor for citywide candidates.
Miami-Dade County	2,253,362	2001	County Commission	County Commission: 200 contributions between \$15 and \$250 from 200 registered voter residents of Miami-Dade County for a total of at least \$15,000, in order to receive \$50,000 in public funds for the primary election. If total qualifying contributions exceed \$25,000, the candidate is eligible for \$75,000 in public funds for the primary election. Mayor: 1000 contributions between \$15 and \$250 from 1000 registered voter residents of Miami-Dade County. Runoff: A candidate who was not a participant in the primary election may receive public funds in a runoff without meeting the threshold requirement, provided that the candidate did not exceed the spending limit in the primary and agrees to abide by the runoff spending and personal contribution limits.	A qualified candidate receives a lump-sum grant of either \$50,000 or 75,000 for the general election, depending on which qualification threshold is met. A qualified candidate receives an additional \$50,000 if a runoff election is held. Mayor: A qualified candidate receives a lump-sum grant of \$300,000 for the general election, and an additional \$200,000 if a runoff election is held.

City	Population	Year Started	Offices Covered	Qualifying Threshold	Allocation Method - Ratio of Matching Funds or Direct Grant
New York City	8,008,278	1988	City Council, Borough President, Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller	In order to reach the following threshold requirements, the contributions must be between \$10 and \$1,000 and made by natural persons who are residents of New York City. Council: at least 50 contributions totaling \$5,000. Borough President: at least 100 contributions totaling an amount equal to \$.02 multiplied by the resident population of the borough. Mayor: at least 1,000 contributions totaling \$250,000. Public Advocate and Comptroller: at least 500 contributions totaling \$125,000.	\$4 in public funds for each \$1 in contributions of \$250 or less from natural persons, up to \$1,000 in public funds per contributor.
Oakland	399,484	1999	(currently suspended)	Contributions of \$100 or less totaling at least 5% of the applicable spending limit.	\$1 in public funds for each \$1 in contributions, up to \$100 in public funds per contributor.
Sacramento	407,018	2003	City Council and Mayor	City council candidates must raise at least \$5,000 in contributions of \$250 or less. Mayoral candidates must raise at least \$10,000 in contributions of \$250 or less.	\$1 in public funds for each \$1 in contributions received within 90 days of the election, up to \$250 in public funds per contributor. City Council: \$30,000 per election
San Francisco	776,733	2000	Board of Supervisors	Candidate must raise \$7,500 in contributions between \$10 and \$100 from residents of the city.	General Election: A Board of Supervisors Candidate receives \$5,000 on certification of eligibility, then \$4 in public funds for each of the first \$5,000 raised in individual contributions, then \$1 in public funds for each \$1 in individual contributions raised, up to a maximum of \$43,750. Runoff Election: Candidate receives \$5,000 on qualification for runoff, then \$4 in public funds for each \$1 in individual contributions raised, up to a maximum of \$17,000.
Suffolk County, NY	1,419,369	1998	All County offices	The following thresholds must be met by contributions from natural person residents of the County of between \$10 and \$500. County Legislature: 50 contributions totaling at least \$5,000. Executive: 500 contributions totaling at least \$75,000. Comptroller, Treasurer, District Attorney: 300 contributions totaling at least \$30,000.	Upon reaching the threshold for eligibility, a candidate receives the following amount of public funds per election, in a lump-sum grant.
Tuscon	486,699	1985	City Council and Mayor	The following thresholds must be met with contributions from city residents. Council: 200 contributions of \$10 or more. Mayor: 300 contributions of \$10 or more.	\$1 in public funds for every \$1 in contributions.

Summary of Cities with Public Funding for Candidates- Continued on Chart 2

City	Amount of Public Funds candidate may receive	Source of Funds	Total Spending Limits
Austin	No maximum is established by law.	Candidate filing fees and lobbyist registration fees	General: \$75,000 Runoff: \$50,000
Boulder	A candidate may receive no more than 50% of the spending limit in public funds. In 2001, a candidate could receive a maximum of \$5,871 in public funds.	City Council allocation	\$0.15 per registered voter: \$11,742 (2001)
Long Beach	A candidate may receive no more than 33% of the primary spending limit and 50% of the runoff election spending limit in public funds, which equals: Council: \$15,180 (Primary) & \$11,500 (Runoff) Mayor: \$75,900 (Primary) & \$57,500 (Runoff) Other Citywide Office: \$37,950 (Primary) & \$28,750 (Runoff)	City council allocations "from time to time."	Council: \$46,000 (Primary) & \$23,000 (Runoff) Mayor: \$230,000 (Primary) & \$115,000 (Runoff) Other Citywide Office: \$115,000 (Primary) & \$57,500 (Runoff)
Los Angeles	Council: \$100,000 (Primary) & \$120,000 (Runoff) Controller: \$267,000 (Primary) & \$300,000 (Runoff) City Attorney: \$300,000 (Primary) & \$350,000 (Runoff) Mayor: \$667,000 (Primary) & \$800,000 (Runoff)	The City charter mandates \$2 million in annual appropriations to fund the public financing program. The annual appropriations are held in a trust fund, the balance of which may never exceed \$8 million. Both the annual appropriation and the total balance amounts are adjusted for changes in the cost of living.	City Council: \$330,000 (Primary), \$275,000 (Runoff) Controller: \$900,000 (Primary), \$676,000 (Runoff) City Attorney: \$1,013,000 (Primary), \$788,000 (Runoff) Mayor: \$2,251,000 (Primary), \$1,800,000 (Runoff)
Miami-Dade County	County Commission: \$75,000 (General) & \$50,000 (Runoff) Mayor: \$300,000 (General) & \$200,000 (Runoff)	Appropriations from general revenues "in an amount sufficient to fund qualifying candidates."	Mayor: \$600,000 (General), \$400,000 (Runoff) Commissioner: \$150,000 (General), \$100,000 (Runoff)

City	Amount of Public Funds candidate may receive	Source of Funds	Total Spending Limits
New York City	Under normal circumstances, a candidate may not receive public funds that exceed 55% of spending limit, which in 2003 / 2005 will equal: Council: \$82,500 per election Borough President: \$708,950 per election Mayor: \$3,150,400 per election Public Advocate and Comptroller: \$1,969,550 per election However, if the spending limit is lifted in a race because of a high spending candidate, matching funds candidates may receive up to 67% of the spending limit in public funds, which in 2003 / 2005 will equal Council: \$100,000 per election Borough President: \$859,333 per election Mayor: \$3,818,667 per election Public Advocate and Comptroller: \$2,387,333 per election	Annual budget appropriation.	2003 / 2005 Election year limits: Mayor: \$5,728,000 per election Public Advocate and Comptroller: \$3,581,000 per election Borough President: \$1,289,000 per election Council: \$150,000 per election. Additional spending limits apply to the two years preceding the election year.
Oakland	Candidates may not receive public funds exceeding 15% of the applicable spending limit, which equals: District City Councilmember: \$13,800-\$15,900 per election (depending on the Population of the district) School Board Director: \$9,150-\$10,650 per election (depending on the Population of the district) Mayor: \$48,150 per election Other Citywide Office: \$34,350 per election/	No City Council appropriation "sufficient to fund all candidates for the city office eligible to receive limited matching funds."	Mayor: \$321,000 Other Citywide Office: \$229,000 District City Councilmember: \$92,000 to \$106,000 (depending on the population of the district) School Board Director: \$61,000 to \$71,000 (depending on the population of the district)
Sacramento	Mayor: \$100,000 per election	No City council appropriation .	Mayor: \$500,000 City Council: \$75,000
San Francisco	\$43,750 (General) & \$17,000 (Runoff)	Election Campaign Fund established by ordinance. Ordinance directs the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to appropriate an amount sufficient to provide funding to all eligible candidates.	Bd. of Supervisors: \$75,000 (General), \$20,000 (Runoff)
Suffolk County, NY	County Legislature: \$10,000 Executive: \$200,000 Comptroller, Treasurer, District Attorney: \$70,000 County Legislature: \$10,000 Executive: \$200,000 Comptroller, Treasurer, District Attorney: \$70,000	Voluntary check off donations to the campaign finance fund. Executive: \$313,000 (Primary), \$522,000 (General) Other Countywide Offices: \$104,000 (Primary), \$209,000 (General) County Legislator: \$16,000 (Primary), \$31,000 (General)	Additional spending limits apply to the year preceding the election year.
Tuscon	There is no maximum amount established explicitly by law though, under the matching funds formula, it would be impossible for a candidate to receive more than 50% of the spending limit in public funds. Consequently, the maximum public funds available to a candidate in 2003 would be: Council: \$35,567 per election cycle Mayor: \$71,135 per election cycle	Mayor/Council annual budget appropriations.	Mayor: \$.64 per registered voter in the city per election cycle: \$142,271 (2003) Council: \$.32 per registered voter in the city per election cycle: \$71,135 (2003) No candidate may spend more than 75% of these limits prior to the primary election.