

SUMMARY OF LEES-ROSENBERG AMENDMENT ON CLEAN ELECTIONS

1. Constituent expenditures, rent, and utilities

- *Allow legislators who are participating in the Clean Elections Law to spend a limited amount of money they raise in \$100 contributions or less for constituent services. For those who are not participating in the system, it exempts constituent expenditures from the matching funds provisions for participating candidates. Both proposals apply up until nomination papers are due.*

The limits for participating candidates are \$5,000 and \$15,000 for House and Senate, respectively. This money can be spent up until the day nomination signatures are due (mid-May of the election year), and it cannot expressly advocate the election or defeat of any candidate or ballot question. In addition, rent and utility payments (including heat, electricity and telephones) made until the nomination signature deadline are exempted, as long as the rent does not exceed the fair market rate for similar rentals.

2. Qualifying for public funds

- *Set a second threshold for qualifying for public funds.*

Candidates are required under the Clean Elections Law to raise a specific number of qualifying contributions of at least \$5 and no more than \$100 from voters in their district, or statewide for constitutional officers. The amendment adds a second test of viability of raising a “minimum qualifying amount” of contributions. See the table below.

Office	Number of Contributions	Minimum Qualifying Amount
State Representative	200	\$3,000
State Senator	450	\$9,000
Governor’s Council	400	\$6,000
Secretary of State	2,000	\$40,000
Auditor	2,000	\$40,000
Treasurer	3,000	\$60,000
Attorney General	3,000	\$60,000
Lieutenant Governor	3,000	\$60,000
Governor	6,000	\$120,000

3. Matching funds for statewide candidates in the general election

- *Increase the matching funds available to statewide candidates in the general from two times the spending limit to three times the spending limit.*

Participating candidates receive limited matching funds if their non-participating opponent exceeds the spending limit. This provision would increase the matching funds available to general election participants in statewide races from two times the spending to three times the spending limit in order to keep pace with well- or self-financed opponents.

4. Opt-in date

- *Allow candidates a second chance to decide whether or not to participate in the system.*

The effective date of these changes, and the new beginning date of the 2002 election cycle, would be ninety days after the budget is signed.

5. Other issues

- *Have the Review Commission look at the issue of flexible spending limits between primary and general elections and the ability of candidates to participate in the primary but not the general election.*
- *Shift – but not shorten – the election cycle so that it begins January 1st of the non-election year and ends December 31st of the election year in order to match existing reporting dates.*
- *Streamline the reporting guidelines for non-participating candidates.*
- *Establish a role for local elections officials in certifying qualifying contributions.*
- *Spending done during the primary for the purpose of influencing voters in the general election would be counted against the spending limit in the general election, not the primary, i.e., pre-paying for television time.*