

**Quick Facts**  
**Michigan's Public Funding Program - Gubernatorial Candidates Only**

- Michigan's Public Funding program provides funds from the State Campaign Fund to gubernatorial candidates. MCL 169.261(1)
- Gubernatorial candidates must obtain the appropriate number of signatures to run for office. Refer to [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Select "Elections", on the elections page, select "Information for Candidates."
- Gubernatorial candidates must check box 12 of the Candidate Committee Statement of Organization prior to receiving public funds. *Any contributions received prior to checking box 12 are not matchable.* MCL 169.262(2)
- Gubernatorial candidates seeking public funds must raise at least \$75,000.00 in "qualifying contributions" during the primary election in order to apply for public funds. MCL 169.264(1)
  - A "**Qualifying Contribution**" is defined as a contribution from a Michigan resident of \$100.00 or less in a calendar year. This contribution must be made after April 1 of the year preceding the year in which the governor is to be elected. *For the 2010 election the contributions must be made on or after April 2, 2009.* MCL 169.212.1
- Primary Election Public Funds: A gubernatorial candidate seeking public funds will receive \$2 in public funds for each \$1 of qualifying contribution and may receive up to \$990,000.00 in public funds for the Primary. A contribution may only be matched for the calendar year in which it was issued. MCL 169.264(3)

**Example 1:** Contributor gives the maximum contribution of \$3,400.00 on May 1, 2009. The committee may apply to receive \$200.00 in matching funds. **Example 2:** Contributor gives \$3,300.00 on May 1, 2009 and \$100.00 on January 10, 2010. The committee may apply to receive \$200.00 in 2009 and \$200.00 in 2010, a total of \$400.00 in matching funds.

- **Available funds are determined by the State Treasurer:**  
*If insufficient funds exist for full funding to eligible primary election public funding candidates, the campaign funds shall be distributed to public funding candidates on a pro rata basis (i.e. proportional) and not on a first come first serve basis.* MCL 169.261(5)
- General Election Public Funds: The two major party primary election winners who have applied for public funds may receive a flat grant of \$1,125,000.00 each for the general election. MCL 169.265(1)
  - *The Campaign Finance Act provides criteria and formulas by which minor party candidates and candidates with no party affiliation may also qualify to receive public funds in the general election.* MCL 169.265(2), (3), (4)
- The first date that an application for public funds can be filed is January 1 of the year in which the office of governor is to be elected. MCL 169.261(4)
- The last date an application for public funds can be filed is December 15 of the year in which the office of governor is to be elected. R 169.44

- Gubernatorial candidates seeking public funds must limit “immediate family” contributions to \$50,000.00 for the entire election cycle.
  - **“Immediate Family”** for public funding candidates is defined as the candidate’s spouse, parents, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. *These totals are aggregate for both the gubernatorial and lieutenant governor candidates.* MCL 169.269(6)
  
- Gubernatorial candidates seeking public funds must limit their expenditures to \$2 million for each election in which they receive public funds. MCL 169.267(1)
  - ***Exception to \$2 million Expenditure Limit.***

***Primary Election:*** *The \$2 million primary election expenditure limit for a gubernatorial candidate receiving public funding is suspended when a candidate **seeking the same nomination in the primary election**, but not seeking public funds, contributes to his/her own committee, or receives from his/her immediate family, \$340,000.00 or more during the election cycle.* MCL 169.269(8)

***General Election:*** *The \$2 million general election expenditure limit for a gubernatorial candidate receiving public funding is suspended when a candidate **seeking the same office in the general election**, but not seeking public funds, contributes to his/her own committee or receives from his/her immediate family, \$340,000.00 or more during the election cycle.* MCL 169.269(8)
  
- Funds received from the State Campaign Fund may only be used to make “Qualified Expenditures.”
  - **“Qualified Expenditures”** are defined as expenditures for services, materials, facilities, or other things of value by the candidate committee to further the candidate’s nomination or election to office during the year in which the primary or general election in which candidates seeks nomination or election is held. *Refer to the Gubernatorial Public Funding Manual for a listing of prohibited expenditures.* MCL 169.266(2)
  
- A gubernatorial candidate seeking public funds must file all campaign statements and reports electronically using MERTSPlus or an approved vendor’s software.
- Gubernatorial candidates seeking public funds are required to have two separate bank accounts – one for private funds and one for public funds. MCL 169.266(3)
- Gubernatorial candidates that receive public funds must return any unused portion of funds to the State Campaign Fund. R169.47
- The Department of State’s Internal Security Division will conduct a complete audit of the public funding account of all gubernatorial candidate committees that receive public funding. R 169.46-48