

Michigan's Public Funding Program
Quick Facts
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/elections.
 - Select "Information for Candidates"
 - Select "Filing for Office"
 - Select "Filing Requirements for Governor"
- Gubernatorial candidates must indicate their intent to seek public funding on the Statement of Organization prior to applying for public funds. *Any contributions received prior to filing a Statement of Organization indicating the intent to seek public funds are not matchable.* MCL 169.262(2)
- Gubernatorial candidates seeking public funds for the primary election must raise at least \$75,000.00 in qualifying contributions 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 made after April 1 of the year proceeding the year in which the governor is to be elected. *For the 2018 election the contributions must be made on or after April 2, 2017.* MCL 169.212.1
 - A contributor is not limited to a \$100.00 contribution per year and may contribute the maximum \$6,800.00; however only \$100 per year is matchable.
 - * Example 1: Contributor gives the maximum contribution of \$6,800.00 on May 1, 2017; \$100 of the contribution is matchable for 2017 only and the contributor may not give more in 2018.
 - * Example 2: Contributor gives \$6,700.00 on May 1, 2017 and \$100.00 on January 10, 2018, reaching the maximum contribution of \$6,800; \$100.00 of the 2017 contribution and \$100.00 of the 2018 is matchable.
- 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. MCL 169.264(3)
 - 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 *major* party gubernatorial primary election winners seeking public funds may receive a flat grant of \$1,125,000.00 each for the general election. MCL 169.265(1)
 - The major party nominees who have indicated their intent to seek public funds will automatically receive \$56,250.00 in public funds no later than 10 days after the primary elections. The remaining balance may be paid after the board of state canvassers' certification of the primary election results, but not later than 30 days after the primary election. MCL 169.265(6)
 - 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)
 - Exceptions 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. MCL 169.266(2)
 - Refer to the Gubernatorial Public Funding Manual for a listing of prohibited expenditures.
 - Public funds received for the Primary Election must only be used to make qualified expenditures for the Primary Election.
 - Public funds received for the General Election must only be used to make qualified expenditures for the General Election.
- Gubernatorial candidates that receive public funds must return any unused portion of funds to the State Campaign Fund. R169.47
- A gubernatorial candidate seeking public funds must file all campaign statements and reports electronically using MERTS.
- 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)
- The Department of State’s Internal Security Division will conduct a complete audit of the accounts of all gubernatorial candidate committees that receive public funding. R 169.46-48