



Public Campaign Financing Law Montgomery County Style

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Who can play?

- A candidate for:
 - County Executive
 - County Council
- Voluntary
- Certified Candidate



How do I get certified?

- Must file notice of intent with State Board on or before April 15 of the year of the election
- Must establish a publicly funded campaign account
- Must collect sufficient qualifying contributions



What is a qualifying contribution?

- Contribution of \$5 to \$150 (aggregated over the 4-year election cycle)
- From an individual who is a County resident
- Acknowledged by a receipt from the contributor
- Received during the qualifying period and after you file your notice of intent
- Must be received into the candidate's publicly funded campaign account



After filing the Notice of Intent

- A Candidate Cannot:
 - Accept a contribution greater than \$150
 - Accept a contribution from any group or organization, including a
 - political action committee
 - Corporation
 - labor organization
 - State or local central committee
 - Be a member of a slate
 - Accept a loan except from yourself or spouse
 - (\$6000 limit for contributions from self or spouse)



When is the qualifying period?

- Starts on January 1 following the last election for the office sought
- Ends 45 days before the date of the Primary Election
- The notice of intent to seek public funding can be filed anytime during the qualifying period.



What do I need to get certified?

- **For Executive**
 - 500 qualifying contributions
 - An aggregate total of \$40,000
- **At-Large Councilmember**
 - 250 qualifying contributions
 - An aggregate total of \$20,000
- **District Councilmember**
 - 125 qualifying contributions
 - An aggregate total of \$10,000



What happens if I get the qualifying contributions?

- Apply to the State Board for certification;
 - During the qualifying period;
 - Sign a declaration agreeing to follow the rules; and
 - Submit a campaign finance report and a certificate of candidacy.
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- Board will certify you within 10 business days


How much money can I get?

- Executive
 - \$6 for each of the 1st \$50
 - \$4 for each of the 2nd \$50
 - \$2 for each dollar of the remainder
- County Council
 - \$4 for each of the 1st \$50
 - \$3 for each of the 2nd \$50
 - \$2 for each dollar of the remainder




Is there a limit to how much I can get?

- YES!
- Executive
 - \$750,000
- At-Large Councilmember
 - \$250,000
- District Councilmember
 - \$125,000
- These limits are for either the primary or the general election.
- You can continue to collect qualifying contributions after reaching your limit.



What if there isn't enough money to pay everyone?

- On or before July 1 of the year preceding the primary election:
 - Director of Finance must determine if there is sufficient money in the Fund; and
 - If there is not enough, the Director must reduce all payments by the same percentage.



Do I need to have an opponent to collect public money?

- What do you think?
- Yes!
- You can get certified without an opponent in the primary and receive funding for the general election (if you have an opponent) or for the primary if another candidate files after you are certified.



Can I withdraw after being certified?

- Yes!
 - No problem before you receive a public contribution; or
 - Must repay all public funds received with interest to withdraw.
- Can withdraw from public financing without withdrawing as a candidate.



What can I do with the public money?

- Must use it for primary or general election expenses.
- Must not pay in advance for goods and services to be used after certification with non-qualifying contributions received before certification.
- Must return any unspent money after withdrawing as a candidate or losing the election.



How will this be enforced?

- Complaints should be filed with the State Board of Elections
- What happens with the complaint?
 - Jared DeMarinis, Director of the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division of the State Board of Elections is here to answer that question.