



# Overview of San Francisco's Limited Public Financing Program for Candidates for the Board of Supervisors and Mayor

**S.F.'s public financing program  
extends only to races for the  
Board of Supervisors and Mayor**

**Thus, there are certain  
requirements that apply to all  
candidates for the Board of  
Supervisors or Mayor**

# File *Form SFEC-142(a)*

All candidates for the Board of Supervisors or Mayor  
must file *Form SFEC-142(a) Statement of Participation or Non-Participation in the Public Financing Program,*

- with the Ethics Commission
- no later than the 88<sup>th</sup> day before the election
- indicating whether the candidate intends to participate or declines to participate in the public financing program.

Candidates for the Board of Supervisors must file the following forms when their contributions or expenditures reach certain thresholds:

- **Form SFEC-152(a)-1**
  - (notice of \$10,000 threshold)
- **Form SFEC-152(a)-2**
  - (notice of  $\geq$ \$100,000 thresholds)

# File *Form SFEC-152(a)-1*

All candidates for the Board of Supervisors must file *Form SFEC-152(a)-1*,

- with the Ethics Commission
- within 24 hours of receiving contributions or making expenditures,
- that equal or exceed \$10,000.

If at least one candidate is certified as eligible to receive public funding, each candidate for the Board in the same race (district) must file *Form SFEC-152(a)-2*

1. Within 24 hours of receiving contributions or making expenditures that equal or exceed \$100,000; and
2. Thereafter, within 24 hours of every time that the candidate receives additional contributions or makes additional expenditures that equal or exceed \$10,000.

Candidates for Mayor must file the following forms when their contributions or expenditures reach certain thresholds:

- **Form SFEC-152(b)-1**
  - (notice of \$50,000 threshold)
- **Form SFEC-152(b)-2**
  - (notice of  $\geq$ \$1,000,000 thresholds)

# File *Form SFEC-152(b)-1*

All candidates for Mayor must file *Form SFEC-152(b)-1*,

- with the Ethics Commission
- within 24 hours of receiving contributions or making expenditures,
- that equal or exceed \$50,000.



If at least one candidate is certified as eligible to receive public funding, each candidate for Mayor must file *Form SFEC-152(b)-2*

1. Within 24 hours of receiving contributions or making expenditures that equal or exceed \$1,000,000; and
2. Thereafter, within 24 hours of every time that the candidate receives additional contributions or makes additional expenditures that equal or exceed \$50,000.

How does a person know when the Ethics Commission has certified a candidate as eligible to receive public funds?

- The Ethics Commission will post the information to its website, issue a press release, and notify all other candidates running for the same office.
- In addition, the Ethics Commission will notify any person who requests to receive such notification.

How can you request to receive notification from the Ethics Commission?

- Use *Form SFEC-152(c)* to give the Ethics Commission your contact information such as your email address.

# Topics – Public Financing Program

- Requirements for eligibility to receive public funds
- Qualification threshold and timeframe
- Certification
- Public funds after certification stage
- Formula for disbursement of public funds
- Individual Expenditure Ceiling
- Campaign Contribution Trust Account
- Campaign Contingency Account
- After the election

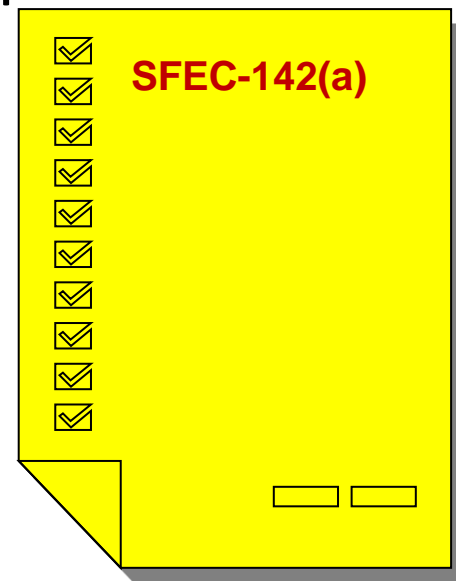
# Candidate Review

- Before applying for public funding, candidates should read the specific rules for public financing candidates.
  - FPPC Manual 2
  - Candidates' Guide to City Elective Office
  - Supplement for Candidates for the Board of Supervisors or Supplement for Candidates for Mayor
  - Forms include instructions
  - Call staff for guidance



# 12 Things A Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

- ❑ 1. Seek election to the Board of Supervisors or Mayor & be eligible to hold office if elected.
- ❑ 2. File a Statement of Participation or Non-Participation or Form SFEC-142(a), indicating your intent to participate.



# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

3. Candidates for the Board of Supervisors must submit application with supporting documents to show at least

	Non-incumbent	Incumbent
Qualifying Contributions	\$10,000	\$15,000
From # of S.F. Residents	100	150

The following items must be submitted no later than 70<sup>th</sup> day before election

- File Declaration for Public Funds (cover sheet)
- File a Qualifying Contributions List* (Excel spreadsheet that is required in electronic form) &
- Provide supporting documentation (grouped by deposit batches)

# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

3. Candidates for Mayor must submit application with supporting documents to show at least

	Non-incumbent	Incumbent
Qualifying Contributions	\$50,000	\$75,000
From # of S.F. Residents	500	750

The following items must be submitted no later than 70<sup>th</sup> day before election

- File Declaration for Public Funds (cover sheet)
- File a Qualifying Contributions List* (Excel spreadsheet that is required in electronic form) &
- Provide supporting documentation (grouped by deposit batches)

# Qualifying Contributions

## **A qualifying contribution is a contribution that is**

- Made by an individual who is a resident of San Francisco
- an amount from \$10 to \$100
- NOT a loan or an in-kind contribution
- NOT received more than 18 months before the date of the election
- Must be received before the 70<sup>th</sup> day before the election (i.e., on or before the 69<sup>th</sup> day) AND
- NOT made by the candidate or the candidate's immediate family





# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

## 4. Bear the Burden Proof!

Each contribution you rely upon to establish eligibility must be:

- ❑ A qualifying contribution &
- ❑ Expenditures made with public funds must only be used for qualified campaign expenditures



# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

- ❑ 5. be opposed by a candidate who has qualified for public financing or by a candidate who has received contributions or made expenditures that in the aggregate equal or exceed \$10,000 (BoS) or \$50,000 (Mayor);
- ❑ 6. agree to participate in at least three debates with your opponents;



# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

- ❑ 7. Agree to limit spending on your campaign to no more than your individual expenditure ceiling of \$250,000 (BoS) or \$1,475,000 (Mayor), or as adjusted by the Ethics Commission;
- ❑ 8. **NOT** accept any loans to your campaign from anyone except yourself, and not loan or donate more than \$5,000 of your own money to your campaign



# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

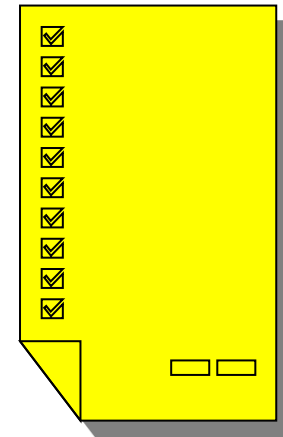
- ❑ 9. **NOT** make any payments to a contractor or vendor in return for the contractor or vendor making a campaign contribution to your committee; and not make more than a total of 50 payments to a contractor or vendor who has made a contribution to your committee;



# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

- ❑ 10. Have paid any outstanding finances owed to the City by you or any of your campaign committees;
- ❑ 11. Have filed any outstanding statements, reports or forms owed to the City by you or any of your campaign committees;

AND



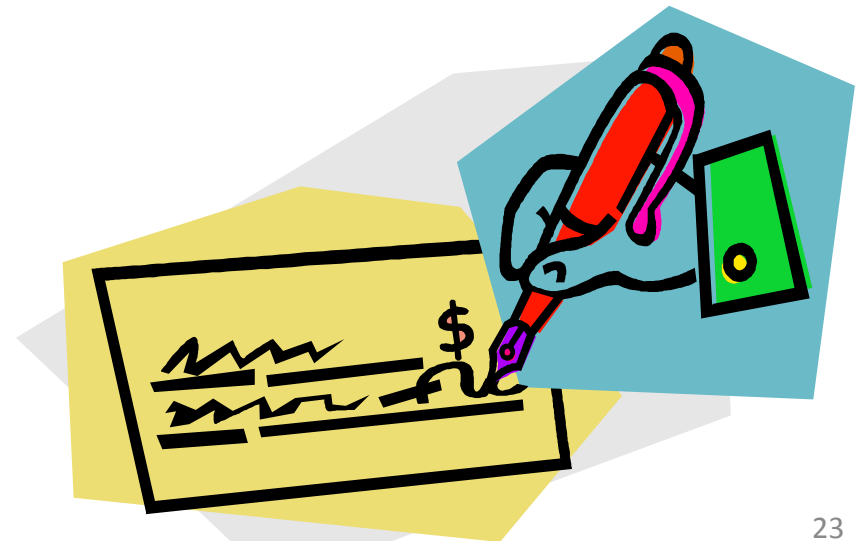
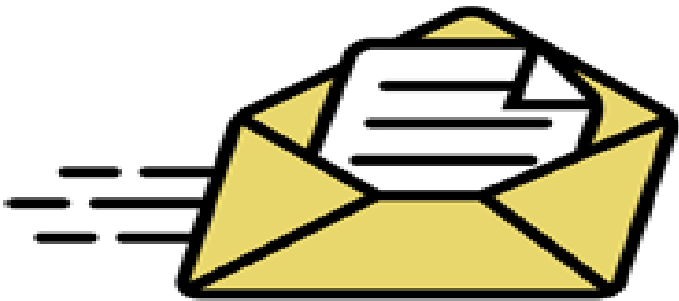
# 12 Things a Candidate Must Do to Qualify for Public Financing

12. Have **NO** finding by a court or by the Ethics Commission within the past 5 years that you knowingly, willfully, or intentionally violated any provisions in the SF Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code or the campaign finance provisions of the Political Reform Act.



# What Happens After You Qualify?

- ✓ You will receive notice of certification or non-certification.
- ✓ If certified, you will receive an initial amount of \$20,000 (BoS) or \$100,000 (Mayor).
- ✓ Earliest possible disbursement date is 142 days before election.



## Can You Receive Additional Funds After the Initial Payment?

Yes, you may receive additional funds, depending on the amount of matching contributions you raise. You may begin to submit claims as soon as you have been certified. Funds are disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis.



# Matching Contribution: Definition

A matching contribution is a monetary contribution that:

- is not a qualifying contribution or a loan
- is made by an individual who is a resident of San Francisco (other than the candidate or the candidate's immediate family)
- is not received more than 18 months before the November election

AND

- complies with all the requirements of the CFRO and its implementing regulations.

# How to Submit Claims for Matching Funds

Submit:

Application for Additional Public Funds

AND

Matching Contributions List (also required in electronic form)

Supporting Documentation

Claims must include a minimum of \$1,000 (BoS) or \$5,000 (Mayor) in matching contributions, except that in the last 14 days preceding an election, claims must include a minimum of \$200 (BoS) or \$1,000 (Mayor) in matching contributions.

A candidate may not submit a claim for public funds if the candidate has any claims pending with the Ethics Commission.

# Formula for Disbursement of Public Funds: Non-Incumbent Candidates

Candidate Raises (non-incumbent)	Election Campaign Fund Pays
BoS: \$10,000 in qualifying contributions Mayor: \$50,000	BoS: \$20,000 (initial payment) Mayor: \$100,000
BoS: Up to \$50,000 in matching contributions Mayor: \$425,000	BoS: Up to \$100,000 (2 to 1 match) Mayor: Up to \$850,000
BoS: Up to \$35,000 in matching contributions Mayor: \$25,000	BoS: Up to \$35,000 (1 to 1 match) Mayor: Up to \$25,000
Total available to eligible candidate	BoS: Up to \$155,000 Mayor: Up to \$975,000

# Formula for Disbursement of Public Funds: Incumbent Candidates

Incumbent Candidate Raises	Election Campaign Fund Pays
BoS: Incumbents need \$15,000 in qualifying contributions Mayor: \$50,000	BoS: \$20,000 (initial payment) Mayor: \$100,000
BoS: Up to \$50,000 in matching contributions Mayor: \$425,000	BoS: Up to \$100,000 (2 to 1 match) Mayor: Up to \$850,000
BoS: Up to \$32,500 in matching contributions Mayor: \$12,500	BoS: Up to \$32,500 for incumbents (1 to 1 match) Mayor: Up to \$12,500
Total available to eligible candidate	BoS: Up to \$152,500 for incumbents Mayor: Up to \$962,500 for incumbents

# Individual Expenditure Ceiling (IEC)

If you seek public funds:

- ❑ You must agree not to make expenditures in excess of your IEC, which starts at \$250,000 for candidates for the Board of Supervisors or \$1,475,000 for candidates for Mayor

The Ethics Commission will adjust your IEC to an amount that equals:

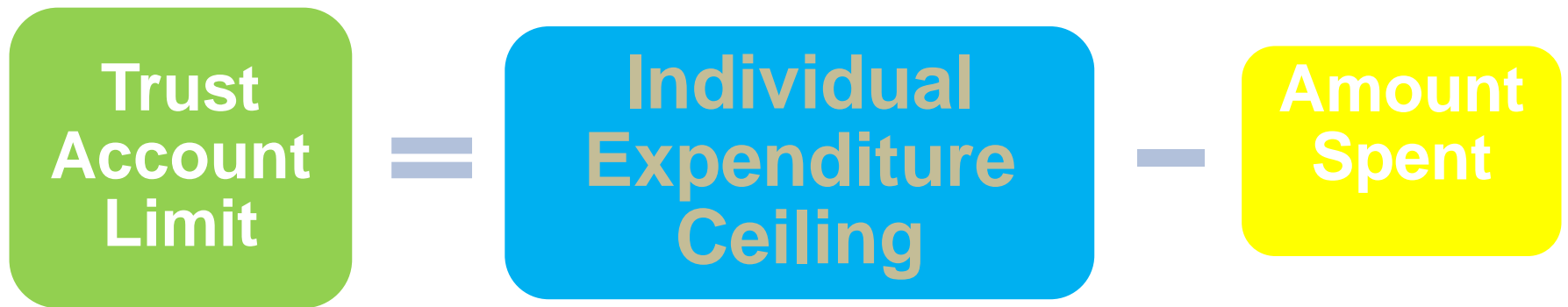
- Total opposition spending against you, plus
- The highest level of total supportive funds of any of your opponents.



But the raising of your IEC will not allow you to receive more public funds.

# Campaign Contribution Trust Account

- This is your campaign bank account.
- All contributions must be deposited into and all expenditures must be made from this account.



# Campaign Contingency Account

- An account separate from a certified candidate's campaign contribution trust account.
- You may deposit contributions into this account in anticipation of your individual expenditure ceiling being raised.
- You must report contributions deposited into this account on FPPC Form 460.
- Expenditures may not be made from the Campaign Contingency Account.

# Campaign Contingency Account: Disclosures

If you open a Campaign Contingency Account:

- File *Form SFEC-108* within 10 days of opening the account.
- File *Form SFEC-108* and turn over all funds in the Campaign Contingency Account to the City within 10 days after the election





# What You Do After the Election?

- All candidates certified as eligible to receive public funds will be audited.
- Return unexpended funds to the City.
- Turn over all funds in Campaign Contingency Account (use *Form SFEC-108*).

# Questions

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