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The New York City Campaign Finance Program and the 1993 Elections



NEW YORK CITY
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD



CAN THIS PROGRAM HELP ME?

Yes, if you plan to run for one of five local New York City offices (see chart), the Campaign Finance Program can supplement your fund-raising efforts with public funds. A newly elected City Council member who participated in the Program in 1991 said, "without the Campaign Finance Law, I would have had a very difficult time overcoming the financial advantages of my opponents."

To qualify for public funds you must:

- join the Campaign Finance Program on or before April 30, 1993 as a potential candidate for City Council member, borough president, comptroller, City Council president, or mayor,
- abide by the Program's contribution and spending limits (see chart),
- abide by the Program's financial disclosure and recordkeeping requirements,
- qualify to be on the ballot and have an opponent on the ballot, and
- receive a minimum amount of contributions from a minimum number of city residents. For example, if you are running for City Council, you must raise \$5,000 and receive contributions from at least 50 residents of the Council district in which you are running. By meeting this requirement, candidates demonstrate to both the Board and the public that they are running serious campaigns and that they have significant local support.

Candidates who join the Program are making a public statement about their commitment to good government. They need not accept public funds, but they are still subject to the Program's requirements and limits.

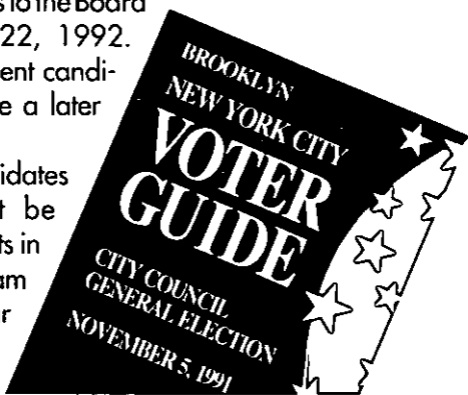
WHAT IS THE VOTER GUIDE?

In addition to administering the Campaign Finance Program, the Board publishes the New York City Voter Guide as part of its mandate to provide information about local candidates to the public. The Voter Guide is a nonpartisan voting booklet that includes important information about municipal candidates, local ballot proposals, and general voting information. Guides are mailed before the primary election and before the general election to every New York City household having a registered voter.

The Voter Guide is a tremendous resource for voters. It includes information about how and where to vote, how to register, and the dates of the primary and general elections. The Guide also contains profiles provided by the candidates that include biographical information, a statement, and a photograph.

The Voter Guide is an excellent opportunity for candidates as well. It provides equal space to all candidates free of charge and enhances the candidates' ability to reach potential supporters. In order to appear in the Guide, all candidates running on a major party line in either the 1993 primary or general election must submit their statements to the Board by June 22, 1992. (Independent candidates have a later deadline.)

Candidates need not be participants in the Program to appear in the Guide.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAM?

It is to lessen the influence of money on campaigns and to give more information to the voters about candidates. This way, more people — candidates and voters — can become involved in New York City elections.

Local campaigns have become increasingly expensive, often costing hundreds of thousands, even millions, of dollars. This Program helps serious candidates overcome the financial hurdles of running for office by matching with public funds the contributions they receive from City residents. Without the help of public funds, many candidates may feel they cannot compete unless they accept unduly large contributions from special interest groups or wealthy contributors.

Any candidate for the offices of City Council member, borough president, comptroller, City Council president, or mayor can participate in this voluntary Program.

Voters' lack of information about political candidates has made them feel like outsiders in the political process. In an effort to provide information about candidates to voters, the Board provides detailed information about whom candidates get their money from and how they spend it.

In addition to providing voters with information about candidates' campaign finances, the Board produces the nonpartisan Voter Guide, a handbook for New York City voters.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM'S LIMITS FOR THE 1993 ELECTIONS?

Office	1993 Spending Limit Per Election	Contribution Limit (Primary and General Combined)	Public Matching Funds Limit Per Election
Mayor:	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 2,000,000
City Council President:	2,500,000	6,500	1,250,000
Comptroller:	2,500,000	6,500	1,250,000
Borough President:	900,000	5,000	450,000
City Council Member:	105,000	3,000	40,000

The contribution limit applies to the entire campaign, which includes both the primary and the general elections. The spending limit and the matching funds limit are applied separately to each election, primary and general. There is also an additional cap on spending in 1992. The information included in this brochure is *not* a complete summary of Program requirements. Please contact the Candidate Services Unit for more detailed information.

**For More Information
Call (212) 306-7100**

*If you are considering running for office,
ask for the Candidate Services Unit.*

*If you want information about the Voter Guide,
ask for the Communications Department.*

The deadline for joining the Campaign Finance Program is April 30, 1993



HOW DOES THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAM WORK?

The Program works by:

- reducing the influence of big money in campaigns by placing reasonable limits on campaign contributions,
- making it easier for all candidates to compete effectively by setting limits on the amount of money candidates can spend on their campaigns,
- giving the press and public better information about who funds candidates' campaigns and how candidates spend their money by requiring candidates to file detailed financial disclosure reports, and
- making smaller contributions twice as important by matching dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1,000, contributions that candidates receive from New York City residents.



This Program is administered by the New York City Campaign Finance Board, an independent, nonpartisan City agency.

New York City Campaign Finance Board
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