

MATCHING FUNDS FAQs

May 2016

What is the Matching Funds Program?

The City's matching funds program was enacted by the voters and provides limited public funding to help qualified candidates run their campaigns for City office. To receive funding, candidates must agree to participate in the program and meet the program's qualification requirements.

How do I agree to participate in the Matching Funds Program?

You can agree to participate in the program by filing an "Acceptance or Rejection of Matching Funds" (Form 20) with the Ethics Commission. Your decision to accept or reject public funds is binding for both the primary election and the general election.

Is there a deadline to agree to participate?

You may file Form 20 any time after filing your fundraising paperwork with the Ethics Commission, but it must be filed by the end of candidate filing week.

What are the qualification requirements?

You must do *all* of the following to qualify to receive public funds:

- Qualify to appear on the ballot;
- Be opposed by a candidate who is also qualified to appear on the ballot;
- Agree to participate in debates;
- Limit your personal and campaign spending to a specific amount in each election;
- Receive specific amounts of qualified contributions from individuals who reside in the City; and
- Receive 200 qualified contributions of at least \$5 from individuals who reside in your council district (if you are a City Council candidate) or in the City (if you are a Citywide candidate).
- Attend a training session conducted by the Ethics Commission.
- File all required campaign statements.

How do I receive public funds?

Public funds are provided as a match to qualified contributions that you receive from private individuals. Up to \$250 per contributor may be matched for City Council candidates, and up to \$500 per contributor may be matched for Citywide candidates.

You must submit a "Matching Funds Request for Qualification or Claim for Payment" (Form 22) to request qualification and to request public funds. You may submit a Form 22 any time after you submit your Form 20. You must provide supporting documentation for every contribution in your Form 22s. Supporting documentation includes but is not limited to contributor checks, credit card transactions, and information cards. Please contact the Ethics Commission for assistance before filing a Form 22.

How much funding can I receive?

It depends on the type of election and the office you seek. Maximum funding ranges from \$100,000 for a qualified City Council candidate in a primary election to \$800,000 for a qualified Mayoral candidate in a general election.

This is only an overview; additional City and state laws apply. Anyone who participates in City elections is responsible for understanding and complying with all of the laws, whether referred to here or not.