

MATCHING FUNDS FAQs

2019 Special City Council District 12 Election

What is the Matching Funds Program?

The matching funds program was enacted by the voters and provides limited public funding to help qualified City candidates run their campaigns for elected 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?

State that you agree to participate in the program when you file 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 you file your fundraising paperwork with the Ethics Commission, but it must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2019.

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;
- Participate in a debate or conduct a town hall meeting;
- Limit your personal spending (including personal loans) to \$34,800 per election.
- Limit your campaign spending to \$519,000 in the primary election and \$432,000 in the general election, unless you are notified by the Ethics Commission that the ceilings have been lifted;
- Receive \$20,000 in qualified contributions from individuals who reside in the City (up to \$114 per contributor may count toward this threshold);
- Receive qualified contributions of at least \$5 from 100 individuals who reside in Council District 12;
- Attend a training session conducted by the Ethics Commission; and
- File all required campaign statements.

How do I receive public funds?

Public funds are provided as a 6:1 match to qualified contributions that you receive from private individuals. Up to \$114 may be matched per contributor.

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

How much funding can I receive?

Up to \$151,000 in the primary election, and up to \$189,000 in the general election.