

2007 CLEAN ELECTIONS CANDIDATE FACT SHEET

P.L.2007, c.60

Program Overview	Establishes a pilot program for the public financing of Senate and General Assembly candidates in three selected districts for the 2007 General Election.
Qualification Period	April 23, 2007 through September 30, 2007
Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) File a Declaration of Intent to seek certification as a NJ Fair and Clean Elections candidate and agreement to participate in two debates by September 28, 2007. 2) Suspend for the duration of the campaign, all access the candidate has to campaign funds raised prior to becoming a participating Clean Elections candidate (exception: a participating candidate may use contributions of \$500 or less raised from individuals who are NJ voters and reported to the Commission prior to becoming a participating candidate as seed money). 3) Obtain a minimum of 400 contributions of \$10 (\$4,000) to receive half of the amount of public funds available and a total of 800 contributions of \$10 (\$8,000) to receive the maximum amount of public funds. Qualifying contributions may be in the form of currency, check, money order, electronic check, debit card, or credit card made payable to the candidate intending to become certified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contributions must be from registered voters from the legislative district in which the candidate is seeking office and be accompanied by a form developed or approved by the Commission to serve as an acknowledgement of the contribution by the contributor. • Qualifying contributions must be deposited into an account under the candidate's name and separate from all other accounts. • The participating candidate shall notify the Commission within three business days of receiving 400 contributions and must file a report each following week reporting the amount of qualifying contributions received to date. All candidates, regardless of the number of qualifying contributions received shall report weekly beginning on May 23, 2007. • General Assembly candidates from the same party and legislative district must both become certified to be eligible to receive public funds. 4) A certified candidate shall limit his or her expenditures to the amounts raised as seed money and qualifying contributions and public funds received from the fund. 5) A certified candidate must participate in two debates, the details of which, including the selection of sponsors, shall be arranged by the candidates. A certified candidate who does not participate in the debates shall return moneys previously received from the funds.
Public Funds Available Per Candidate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Districts A and B (non-split districts):</i> \$100,000 (max.) for each party candidate; \$50,000 (max.) for each independent candidate. Upon receiving 400 qualifying contributions and being certified by the Commission, a candidate nominated by a political party shall receive \$50,000 from the fund. An independent candidate shall receive \$25,000. If the candidate is unopposed, the certified candidate shall receive \$25,000, or \$12,500 if the candidate is an independent candidate. Thereafter a certified candidate shall receive an amount in equal proportion to the number of remaining qualifying contributions up to a maximum of 800 contributions, for a maximum amount of \$100,000 (\$50,000 for an independent candidate). • <i>District C (split district):</i> A maximum of the average amount of money spent by all candidates for the offices of General Assembly and Senate in the two preceding general elections in that district. Amounts to be determined once districts are

	<p>selected. Independents receive the same amount as in non-split districts.</p> <p>Note: Qualifying contribution amounts received will be deducted from grant amounts. Example: If a candidate raises 400 \$10 qualifying contributions, the actual amount dispersed to the candidate will be \$46,000.</p>
Seed Money	<p>Participating candidates may accept contributions of \$500 or less for a maximum aggregate amount of \$10,000 in the form of currency, check, money order, electronic check, debit card, or credit card from registered NJ voters. In-kind contributions may be accepted as seed money, provided that they are de minimis with a fair market value of \$200 or less. Such in-kind contributions shall not count towards the \$10,000 limit. Seed money shall be reported at the same time as qualifying contributions. Seed money contributions shall be accompanied by a Commission created form to serve as an acknowledgment of the contribution by the contributor.</p>
Rescue Money	<p>1) <i>Excessive Expenditure by Opponent</i>: \$100,000 max (Party); \$50,000 max (Independent): If a noncertified candidate reports total contributions that exceeds the amount of money provided to each certified candidate, the Commission shall within 24 hours authorize the issuance of an amount of money equal to the excess amount, up to a maximum of \$100,000 in the case of a political party candidate (increments of \$1,000), or \$50,000 (increments of \$500) for an independent candidate.</p> <p>2) <i>Independent Expenditure Aiding Opponent</i>: \$100,000 max (Party); \$50,000 max (Independent): If the Commission determines, based on a written and certified complaint, that a nonparticipating candidate benefits from an independent expenditure or that a certified candidate is the subject of unfavorable campaign publicity or advertisements by an entity not acting in concert with that opposing noncertified candidate, then the Commission shall within 24 hours authorize the issuance of an amount of money up to a maximum of \$100,000 in the case of a political party candidate, or \$50,000 for an independent candidate. These funds shall be issued to political party candidates as each increment of \$1,000 is reported by the noncertified candidate and to independent candidates as each increment of \$500 is reported by the noncertified candidate.</p>
Communication Requirements	<p>Whenever a certified candidate makes, incurs or authorizes an expenditure to finance a communication aiding or promoting the election of the candidate alone or with other certified candidates or the defeat of any opponent(s), the communication shall include:</p> <p>a) radio: a statement in the candidate’s own voice or each candidate’s own voice, that identifies the candidate, office sought, and that the candidate has approved the ad, or</p> <p>b) TV, Internet, etc: a statement in the candidate’s own voice or each candidate’s own voice, that identifies the candidate, office sought, and that the candidate has approved the ad, that is either spoken by the candidate during an unobscured full-screen view of the candidate or through a voice-over by the candidate accompanied by a clearly identifiable photograph or similar image of the candidate that occupies at least 80% of the vertical screen height, and includes the candidate’s statement at the end of the communication in clearly readable writing letters equal to at least 4% of the vertical picture height and visible for at least four seconds. An Internet communication consisting of only printed material, with or without photographs, shall include the written statement described.</p>
Ballot Statement & Slogan	<p>Candidates certified no later than August 17, 2007 may submit a ballot statement (not to exceed 250 words) to the Commission for inclusion with the sample ballots mailed to each voter registered in the district the candidate is seeking office, and have the slogan “Clean Elections Candidate” included with their name on the general election ballot.</p>