

New York State Public Campaign Finance Board Launches Statewide Public Matching Program

ALBANY, N.Y. (November 15, 2022) On Wednesday, November 9th, the New York State Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) officially launched its new statewide public matching program. The program will allow candidates running for statewide and state legislative offices to apply to receive public matching funds based on small donations from residents in their district.

The program is designed to foster participation in the democratic process by matching small dollar contributions with public funds. Contributions between \$5 and \$250 can be eligible for public matching funds, provided they adhere to certain criteria set in state law.

Candidates running for State Legislative offices to be elected in 2024 will be the first group to be eligible to receive matchable contributions. For all races, only in-district contributions will be matched.

The PCFB was created as a bipartisan agency made up of the four existing New York State Board of Elections commissioners and three additional commissioners appointed by the Leaders of the State Senate and State Assembly Majority and Minority and Governor. The PCFB is responsible for developing the public matching program and informing candidates and the public as to its purpose and effect.

"I am pleased to see the timely launch of New York's first statewide small donor matching program. We hope that the new program will encourage candidates to rethink money in politics and empower small scale donors to get involved." Said Commissioner and Chair Barbara Lifton.

"This will be the largest and most expensive taxpayer funded campaign program in the country.," said Vice-Chair and Commissioner Brian Kolb. "Our goal is to ensure that a fair, balanced and trustworthy initiative will be successful in its operation, while ensuring that the taxpayers investment is well managed and protected."

"One of the goals of the Public Campaign Finance Program is to impart financial parity in our state's election process" said Commissioner Keesha Gaskins-Nathan. "Candidates with significant grassroots support deserve to have a fighting chance at winning elective office."

"The small donor matching program is designed not only to support experienced candidates and political committees, but also to encourage new political candidates and entities who have not yet received large scale financial support" said Commissioner Douglas Kellner. "We are excited to have our first group of candidates begin receiving matching funds for the 2024 election."

"It has been an honor to be a part of the creation of this historic program. The PCFB staff have worked tirelessly to ensure a successful launch and are thoroughly prepared to inform candidates about their opportunity to amplify small donor contributions." Said Commissioner Andrew Spano.

"The New York State Public Campaign Finance Program represents a significant investment in democracy" stated Cheryl Couser, Co-Director of the PCFB. "Small donor financing will help bring a balance back to our campaign finance system by amplifying the voice of all New Yorkers."

“Staff has worked very hard to bring this program together,” said Carl Zeilman, Co-Director of the PCFB. “It will be rewarding to see these efforts carry forward into the first election cycle for 2023-2024.”

Matching payments for the 2024 Primary Election will start as early as 30 days after petitions and nomination certifications have been filed. Payments for the 2024 General Election may start as early as the day after the Primary Election. For more information about the Public Campaign Finance Program visit www.pcfb.ny.gov

If you have any questions about this press release, please contact John Conklin or Jennifer Wilson at the Public Information Office, 518-474-1953; or by email at: info@elections.ny.gov.

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