



NYS Public Campaign Finance Board

Public Campaign Finance Program Introduction

Introduction to the Public Campaign Finance Program for New York State Lieutenant Governor

The New York State Public Campaign Finance Program provides candidates running statewide the ability to qualify for public matching funds based on small donations (\$5-\$250 in the aggregate) from New York State residents. The Program for New York State Lieutenant Governor will begin on **November 9, 2022**, for the 2026 election cycle.



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

To receive public matching funds, candidates must meet the eligibility criteria, be certified by the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) and comply with all program requirements. See the steps below and the information in this guide for a brief overview of how candidates running for **New York State Lieutenant Governor** can become participants in the Program and qualify for public matching funds.

- 1. Run for New York State Lieutenant Governor** – The Public Campaign Finance Program is only available to candidates running for one of the following offices in New York State: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Senate, and State Assembly.
- 2. Register a Committee** – Candidates must register a new authorized committee (Type 1P) by submitting an Committee Registration Form (PCF-21) to NYSBOE. Once a committee is registered, PCFB will send a welcome packet to the candidate and treasurer that includes the program overview and an eligibility checklist. The Committee Registration Form (PCF-21) as well as the Program Application/Certification Form (PCF-22) referenced below that is required to fully participate in the program can be found on our website at <https://pcfb.ny.gov/>.

If a candidate has an existing committee open for the same office, it must be terminated. Candidates are only allowed to have one committee open per elective office sought. If the existing committee remains open, any funds raised into it will not be eligible for match and the candidate will be unable to participate in the program until said committee is terminated.

The PCFB will assist committees during the transition period of closing one committee and opening a new committee.

- 3. Submit an Application/Certification** – After a candidate has registered a new authorized committee (Type 1P), the candidate and treasurer must complete an Application/Certification Form (PCF-22). This should be submitted as early as possible and can be submitted with the committee registration form. The deadline for the Application/Certification to be received is February 23, 2026. Don't wait!
- 4. Set up your Electronic Fund Transfer account** – After a candidate is certified in the program, the treasurer must submit a substitute W-9 form to the PCFB. The PCFB will set up an account with the Statewide Financial System for payment. The treasurer is responsible for setting up electronic fund transfer as soon as possible.
- 5. Hit Fundraising Thresholds and Abide by Contribution Limits** – In order to qualify for receipt of public matching funds, candidates running for New York State Lieutenant Governor must raise a minimum of \$100,000 and receive at least 1,000 matchable contributions from residents of New York State in an aggregate amount of \$5-\$250. Contribution limits were lowered on an across-the-board basis effective November 9, 2022.



(See “Contribution Limits” under “Limits & Thresholds for New York State Lieutenant Governor”)

- 6. Complete Mandatory Training** – Candidates and treasurers must attend certain mandatory PCFB trainings to familiarize themselves with the requirements of the Program. Announcements and dates for training registration will be posted on the PCFB website.

- 7. Meet Election Requirements** - In order to qualify for public matching funds, candidates must qualify to appear on the ballot and participate in a competitive election opposed by another candidate (not including write-ins). There is an exception, where if a candidate is unopposed in the Primary Election, they may receive a limited amount of public funds for expenses incurred on or before the date of the Primary Election. Eligibility will be determined in the Spring of 2026 when the ballot has been determined.

- 8. Adhere to All Program Requirements** – Candidates and treasurers must adhere to all program requirements:
 - Submit financial disclosure reports
 - Keep financial records
 - Restrict the use of personal funds
 - Participate in a debate
 - Comply with any repayments or audits



ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

This checklist is intended only as a guide for candidates running for New York State Lieutenant Governor and participating in the Public Campaign Finance Program. Participants may call the Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) at 518-473-2784 for additional assistance. Candidates and treasurers are further advised to refer to New York State Election Law, PCFB Rules and Regulations, and the PCFB Handbook which can be accessed on the Public Campaign Finance Board's website at <https://pcfb.ny.gov>.

1. Run for an Eligible Office:

The Public Campaign Finance Program is only available to candidates running for one of the following offices in New York State: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Senate, and State Assembly.

Is the candidate running for New York State Lieutenant Governor?

2. Register a New Authorized Committee:

Candidates and treasurers must register a new authorized committee by submitting a Type 1P Committee Registration Form (PCF-21) to the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE). Candidates are only permitted one authorized committee per elective office sought. All previous authorized committees and committee bank accounts associated with the participating candidate that were established for the purpose of seeking or holding the same office for which they will be running in this covered election must be terminated. The committee's remaining balance in the pre-existing committee may be transferred into the new Type 1P authorized committee.

Please note that if these funds were from a previous Type 1P committee for 2024 election cycle, surplus calculations and possible repayments must be calculated prior to transferring any funds. Additionally, any contributions raised after election day, November 5, 2024, into a Type 1P committee used for the 2024 election cycle for state legislature or into a committee for any other office will be ineligible for match in the 2026 program for Lieutenant Governor.

A notarized copy of the Type 1P Committee Registration Form (PCF-21) with original signatures (candidate and treasurer) must be mailed or delivered to the PCFB at 40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5, Albany, NY 12207, for review and approval.

Did the committee complete and submit the Type 1P Committee Registration Form (PCF-21) to the New York State Board of Elections?

Does the candidate have any pre-existing authorized committees for the same office being sought this election cycle? If so, are those committees terminated?

Please note: Upon successful registration, the treasurer will receive an account activation email and a welcome packet. Only after the new authorized committee is registered may a candidate begin raising funds that would qualify for meeting Program eligibility thresholds.



3. Apply for the Public Campaign Finance Program:

After a candidate has registered an authorized committee, the candidate and committee must complete an Application/Certification Form (PCF-22) attesting that they are, and will remain, compliant with Title II, Article 14 of NYS Election Law. The Application/Certification Form (PCF-22) should be submitted at the earliest date possible and can be submitted with the committee registration form. The deadline for submission is February 23, 2026. A notarized copy of the Application/Certification Form (PCF-22) with original signatures and initials (candidate and treasurer) must be mailed or delivered to the PCFB at 40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5, Albany, NY 12207, for review and approval.

Did the candidate and committee complete and submit the Application/Certification Form (PCF-22) to PCFB?

Did the candidate and treasurer receive an Application/Certification acceptance or denial letter from PCFB?

If you have any questions about its status, please contact PCFB.

4. Complete Substitute W-9 Form:

For certified PCFB committees to receive public funds from the State Comptroller, they must be registered with the Statewide Financial System (SFS). To do so, the committee must submit a complete substitute W-9 form to the PCFB. The PCFB will initiate the creation of an account with SFS. Once the account is created, the committee is required to choose ACH/Direct Deposit to receive public matching fund payments.

Did the candidate and treasurer complete and submit a Substitute W-9 form to register with the Statewide Financial System?

Did the candidate and treasurer enroll in ACH/Direct Deposit through their vendor account in the Statewide Financial System?

5. Meet Fundraising Threshold Eligibility and Abide by Contribution Limits:

To qualify to receive public matching funds, participating candidates must prove that they have raised a minimum of \$100,000 and received at least 1,000 matchable contributions (contributions between \$5-\$250 in the aggregate from residents of New York State). Contributions from minors, lobbyists and campaign vendors cannot be claimed for a public match. Committees must also abide by all contribution limits set forth under NYS Election Law. (See "Limits & Thresholds for New York State Lieutenant Governor" for more information)

Did the committee meet the required fundraising thresholds?

Has the committee abided by all contribution limits?



6. Complete Mandatory Training:

Candidates and treasurers must attend certain mandatory PCFB trainings to familiarize themselves with the requirements of the Program. Announcements and dates for training registration will be posted on the PCFB website.

- Did the candidate and treasurer **sign up** for mandatory training?
- Did the candidate and treasurer **complete** mandatory training?

7. Qualify to Appear on the Ballot:

To receive public matching funds, participating candidates must have qualified to appear on the ballot for the applicable election.

- Will the candidate qualify to appear on the applicable ballot?

8. Be in a Competitive Election to Receive the Maximum Payment Limit:

Candidates must file a Statement of Competitive Opposing Candidate with PCFB proving they are opposed by a competitive candidate. PCFB will confirm the competitive status of the opposing candidate. Payment limits are determined based on the competitive status of one's opponent and office sought.



Payment Limits if PCFB Determines Candidate is in a Competitive Election

Primary Election

New York State Lieutenant Governor	
Payment Limit	\$3,500,000

General / Special Election

New York State Lieutenant Governor	
Payment Limit	\$3,500,000 <i>(combined with Governor)</i>

Payment Limits if PCFB Determines Candidate is NOT in a Competitive Election

Primary Election

New York State Lieutenant Governor	
Payment Limit	\$875,000

General / Special Election

New York State Lieutenant Governor	
Payment Limit	\$875,000 <i>(combined with Governor)</i>

- Does the candidate have an opponent?
- Did the candidate submit the signed Statement of Competitive Opposing Candidate certifying the competitiveness of the candidate's election, along with the applicable supporting documentation proving the competitiveness of the opponent?

Please note: If a candidate is unopposed in, or does not have, a Primary Election, but one of the two major parties has a Primary Election contest, the unopposed candidate could be eligible for a reduced amount of public matching funds (50% of the maximum). For New York State Lieutenant Governor, that payment limit would be \$1,750,000 for the Primary Election.

9. Adhere to All Program Requirements

Committees are required to submit all required financial disclosure reports as outlined in the annual Filing Calendar. Committees are required to keep all financial records for a period of five years to enable PCFB to verify accuracy of disclosure reports.



Candidates are not permitted to use personal funds/property for the campaign, except for contributing to the authorized committee in an amount no more than three times the non-family limit for the office. For purposes of this program, loans from the candidate are considered "use of personal funds"; accordingly, a candidate may only loan their campaign up to three times the non-family limit for the office.

Funds jointly held by a candidate, their spouse, or unemancipated children, shall, for the purpose of this limit, be considered funds of the candidate.

Committees are responsible for repaying any excess funds, surplus funds, or funds used for impermissible purposes.

- Has the committee submitted all required financial disclosure reports to PCFB as required by law? Disclosure reports must continue to be filed by the committee until termination is requested from and approved by PCFB.
- Has the committee maintained all internal financial records?
- Has the candidate adhered to Program restrictions on personal funds including loans?
- Has the committee abided by all repayment requirements?

10. Participate in a Debate

Participating statewide candidates must take part in at least one debate and meet the debate financial criteria. The debate must be moderated, an hour in length, and involve reciprocal discussion. Debate sponsors are chosen by PCFB from those who apply. Candidates must have raised or spent at least 5% of the public financing limit to qualify for the debate.

- Did the candidate meet the debate financial criteria?
- Did the candidate participate in at least one debate no later than one week prior to when early voting begins?

11. Comply with All Post-Election Audits:

All authorized committees for statewide candidates are audited by PCFB (regardless of participation in the Program), and those who receive public funds must provide a detailed accounting of the way all public funds were spent. Committees must set aside 3% of the public funds received for post-election audit activity.

Committee audits are completed within a year and a half after the applicable election.

Any costs associated with the post-election audit are paid for by the candidates' authorized committees, using a required 3% reserve of committee funds.

- Did the committee set aside 3% of the public matching funds received for post-election purposes?
- Did the committee comply with all post-election audit requirements?



LIMITS & THRESHOLDS FOR NEW YORK STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Contribution Limits

New York State Election Law establishes limits on contributions that can be received by candidates and political committees.

Effective November 9, 2022, the following limitations apply to all non-family contributions to candidates' authorized committees for election to the **New York State Lieutenant Governor**. (E.L. §14-114(1)).

Please note: These limits apply to all candidates for New York State Lieutenant Governor – whether or not the candidate is participating in the Public Campaign Finance Program.

New York State Lieutenant Governor - Non-Family	
Primary	\$9,000.00
General	\$9,000.00
Total	\$18,000.00

The family limits for contributions to New York State Lieutenant Governor candidates' authorized committees remain based on the formulas outlined in the table below. Under NYS Election Law, the family limit is an aggregate limit from all the candidate's family members (defined as the candidate's child, parent, grandparent, brother and sister, and spouses of those persons). However, if a candidate solely, or using the funds jointly held with a candidate's spouse, or candidate's unemancipated children, contribute more than three times the applicable non-family contribution limit, the candidate would not be eligible to receive public funds until remedied.

New York State Lieutenant Governor - Family	
Primary	Total number of enrolled voters in the candidate's party in the state, excluding voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$0.025.
General	Total number of registered voters in the state, excluding voters in inactive status, multiplied by \$0.025.

Candidates running jointly for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor in a General or Special Election shall be deemed to be one candidate for limit purposes. (E.L. §14-114 (7)).



Fundraising Thresholds

Participating candidates must raise a certain amount of funds from a certain number of individual contributors to qualify to receive public matching funds. The fundraising thresholds vary by office sought. The fundraising threshold for eligibility for matching funding for participating candidates for **New York State Lieutenant Governor** is \$100,000 of matchable contributions, including at least 1,000 individual matchable contributions from residents of New York State. (E.L. §14-203(2)).

Funds that were lawfully raised in previous election cycles (or in pre-existing committees that are not registered with the PCFB) do not count towards the threshold for participation in the Public Campaign Finance Program.

Office	Matchable	Minimum Number of
State Lieutenant Governor	\$100,000	1,000 NYS Residents

Matchable Contributions

Matchable contributions are between \$5 and \$250 in the aggregate, provided those contributions come from a natural person who is a resident of New York State. For examples of what contributions qualify and do not qualify for public matching funds and eligibility thresholds, see the chart below or refer to E.L. §14-203(2) of NYS Election Law for more details.

Example	Is the contribution	Does the	Does the individual
Individual A contributes \$5 (or any amount up to \$250)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Individual B contributes \$2 (or any amount \$1-\$4)	No	No	No
Individual C contributes \$500 (or any amount greater than \$250)	No	Yes, but only \$250 of the total given	No
Individual D contributes \$250 and makes another contribution (of any amount)	No, unless the committee refunds any amounts over \$250	Yes, but only \$250 of the total given	No, unless the committee refunds any amounts over \$250