



Presidential Funding Act of 2006 (H.R. 5905/S. 3740)
A Comparison of Key Provisions: Current v. Proposed System

For most of its 30 years, the presidential public financing system has proven its worth. Matching funds for small dollar donations encourage more Americans to invest in candidates of their choice. Public funds level the playing field among candidates and reduce the influence of wealthy interests.

The system, in recent years, has fallen victim to the changing nature of campaigns and is woefully out of date. Left unchanged it is highly unlikely to play a meaningful role in any future presidential elections.

Bills introduced by Representatives Shays and Meehan and Senator Feingold will revitalize the aging system. The proposed revisions **update the incentives** to participate and **encourage outreach to small donors**.

	Current System	Proposed System
Matching funds (Primary Election)	\$1 to \$1 match on the first \$250 of individual contributions	\$4 to \$1 match on the first \$200 of individual contributions An additional \$1 match is available for those still in the race after March 31.
Eligibility	Candidates must raise \$5,000 in contributions of \$250 or less in 20 states. Candidates may opt in for the primary election or general election or both.	Candidates must raise \$25,000 in contributions of \$200 or less in 20 states. Candidates must opt in for both the primary and general election.
Timing of public funds	Available January 1 of the election year	Available July 1 of year prior to election
Spending limits for candidates	<u>In 2004, approximately:</u> \$45 million in the primary election \$75 million in the general election candidates must abide state-by-state spending limits	<u>In 2008, if adopted:</u> \$150 million in the primary (\$100 through April 1) \$100 million in the general election (amounts indexed for inflation) no state-by-state limits
Coordinated spending limits for parties	Approximately \$15 million in 2004	<u>For 2008:</u> \$25 million after April 1 \$25 million more after nomination
Additional funds to offset opt-out candidates (Primary Election)	None	When non-participant spends more than 120% of limit, participant match is raised retroactively to \$5 to \$1 and spending limit is raised to \$200 million
Additional funds to offset opt-out candidates (General Election)	None	When non-participant spends more than 120% of primary and general election limits, participant grant is doubled
<p>For information contact</p> <p>Gary Kalman 202.546.9707 gkalman@pirg.org</p>		

Tax checkoff	\$3 for individuals, \$6 for those filing jointly no requirements for tax preparation software	\$10 for individuals, \$20 for those filing jointly (amounts indexed for inflation) tax preparation software must remain neutral
Public Education about the system	None	\$10 million
Party Convention fundraising	Soft money permitted	Soft money banned
Disclosure of bundlers	No disclosure requirements	Bundlers who raise \$10,000 or more must disclose their name, address and occupation.