



Voter-Owned Elections Program Design Decisions

MAJOR ITEMS

Which offices included? (mayor, council, other?)

Qualification requirements for candidates, to demonstrate viability

- Signatures required to qualify for public VOE funds .. (800 - 1,000 sigs, or ...)
- \$ amount for qualifying contributions (along with signatures) .. (\$5, \$10, other?)
- Starting & ending dates for qualifying period .. (dates after previous election...)

How much money? - \$ amounts of base allocations

Council candidates ...

- \$ for primary .. (\$80,000, or ...)
- \$ for general .. (\$100,000, or ...)

Mayoral candidates ...

- \$ for primary ..(\$100,000, or ...)
- \$ for general ..(\$120,000, or ...)

\$ Amounts if no primary opponent .. (qualifying \$ only? .. or minimal \$ amt)

In-kind contribution allowances, rules .. (percentage of base allotment, e.g. 10%, or ...)

How much money? - Matching (fair fight) funds

- maximum match rate (i.e. overall cap, expressed as multiple of base allotments) .. (e.g. 3x base)
- proportion of matching funds divvied among candidates if more than one (in primary)

**see "Calculations"*

- triggers for match \$: opponent spending; independent electioneering expenditures
- reporting requirements (for privately-funded candidates, and 527-type IE spending)

Permitted funds during qualifying period - Seed \$ allowances

- During qualifying period ... (specify dates of qualifying period)
- Maximum from candidate and immediate family .. (\$1,000, or ...)
- Maximum size of contribution from donors .. (\$100 per, or ...)
- Maximum seed \$ allowed overall .. (% of base allotment, e.g. 10%, or...)

Administrative oversight agency

- Official administering agency .. (Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission, or ...)
- Procedures for rule making .. (same)
- Funding amount (overhead) .. (10% of VOE program costs, or ...)

continued

Disclosure and reporting requirements

Non-cash candidate exposure - e.g. cable TV debates, voter pamphlets, website voter info.

Source / method of financing

- General fund?
- General fund, via “overhead charge” to each city department budget?
- Voluntary contributions .. if so, how generated?

MANY LESSER DETAILS

- Overall program cost cap .. (*no more than \$5 per city resident, or set % of city budget, or ...*)
- Uncontested primary? .. (*\$ amt allowed public funds?*)
- Permitted expenses for public campaign funds (limitations, restrictions on use of public funds)
- Procedures and rules for withdrawal from program; penalties for late withdrawal
- Reporting requirements for non-participating candidates
- Allowance for in-kind contributions to campaigns .. (*e.g. 10 % of campaign allotment?*)
- Communication with voters - debates, voter pamphlets .. (*requirements ...*)

CALCULATIONS (options) on matching funds rate, in primary

This is only a suggestion, in how to divvy up matching funds among participating primary candidates, if there is more than one.

Consideration / objective: Provide sufficient matching funds, so that candidates can get their message out, and respond to higher spending by privately-funded opponents, while maintaining some reasonable limitations on public funds outlay.

In this scenario below, qualifying candidates would receive matching funds in proportion lesser than 1:1 (matching excess private spending or IE’s), if there are more qualifying candidates to “answer” the spending by privately-funded opponents.

P\$ = Base primary allotment amount for participating candidates

Overall Match = total available matching funds, to be divvied up among participating candidates

n = number of primary candidates qualifying for public funds

Overall match \$ = P\$ x (1+ (n-1)/2)

This formula works out as follows:

N	if total triggered Match is	% of total match, to each candidate
1	100	100% - \$100
2	150	75% - \$ 75
3	200	67% - \$ 67
4	250	62% - \$ 62
5	300	60% - \$ 60

Etc.