

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

PRESS RELEASE

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Two statewide party candidates agree to spending limits for possible matching public funds

Two of the state's 12 party-affiliated statewide candidates have declared with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance that they will adhere to statutory spending limits, a prerequisite to participate in the state's public finance program.

One candidate for lieutenant governor, Anne Manning Martin, and one candidate for attorney general, Michael Walsh, agreed to spending limits. Both are Republicans.

The declarations are binding for both primary and general elections, and are required to be filed by candidates to appear on the ballot. Unenrolled candidates must file their statements by Aug. 25, which is their deadline to file nomination papers with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Under the public finance program, gubernatorial candidates who agree to limit spending are eligible to receive funds first. No candidates for governor agreed to limit their spending for 2026.

Candidates who do not agree to limit their expenditures and are opposed by a candidate that does agree to spending limits must file a statement of maximum expenditures by June 5 for their primary election campaign.

Candidates who agreed to expenditure limits will then have their expenditure limit raised to the highest amount stated by a non-participating primary opponent.

The state's system for public financing offers public funds, depending on availability, to statewide candidates in return for their agreeing to spending limits, which vary according to the office sought. For example, an attorney general candidate that faces opposition agrees to limit expenditures to \$625,000 for the primary campaign (June 3 – Sept. 1) and \$625,000 for the general election campaign (Sept. 2 – Nov. 3). In return, an attorney general candidate who is participating is eligible for up to \$312,500 for each of the two campaign periods, if funds are available.

Manning Martin is opposed in the primary, while Walsh is unopposed. Because Walsh does not have a primary opponent, he is ineligible to receive public funds for the primary election. Manning Martin, if successful at the primary election, is ineligible to receive public funds for the general election because nominees for governor and lieutenant governor run as a candidate team after the primary, and to receive public funding for the general election, both candidates must agree to spending limits. Neither of the Republican candidates for governor agreed to spending limits.

The amount of money in the State Election Campaign Fund (SECF) that will be available to participating candidates will be determined in early July. OCPF estimates the amount of available funds at approximately \$1.4 million for 2026, to be divided evenly between the primary and general election campaigns. The SECF is funded by an optional \$1 check-off on individual state income tax returns.

To become eligible to receive public funds, candidates must submit a minimum amount of qualifying contributions. Qualifying matching contributions include only the first \$250 of individual contributions received in 2025 and 2026.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC FINANCING

2026 Statewide Party Candidates

OFFICE/LIMIT	AGREED TO LIMITS* (Participating)	DID NOT AGREE (Not Participating)
Governor (\$1.5 million primary/\$1.5 million general)		Maura Healey – D Michael Minogue – R Brian Shortsleeve - R
Lieutenant Governor** (\$625,000 primary)	Anne Manning Martin - R	Kimberley Driscoll – D Shawn Oliver – R***
Attorney General (\$625,000 primary / \$625,000 general)	Michael Walsh - R	Andrea Joy Campbell - D
Treasurer (\$375,000 primary / \$375,000 general)		Deborah Goldberg – D Elizabeth Dionne - R
Secretary (\$375,000 primary / \$375,000 general)		William Galvin - D
Auditor (\$375,000 primary / \$375,000 general)		Diana DiZoglio - D

Note: Candidates who have agreed to spending limits are not required to apply for and receive public funds.

*The statutory limit. This limit is subject to increase depending on the self-imposed limit set by any opponent who did not agree to statutory limits.

**Because the nominees for governor and lieutenant governor run as a candidate team after the primary, they are both included in the gubernatorial candidate's general election spending limit and maximum matching funds amounts.

***Non-participating candidates, who are opposed by at least one participating candidate in the primary, must file a statement with OCPF stating their total expenditures for the primary campaign. These statements are due by the close of business on June 5.