

PUBLIC FUNDING OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971; Revenue Act of 1971

- 1) Establishment of Federal Election Commission (FEC) composed of 6 Commissioners (3 Democrats; 3 Republicans), one Commissioner, alternating political party affiliation, appointed by the President and confirmed by Senate each year. Large staff of lawyers, accountants, and others for compliance with the law.
- 2) Election Fund from \$1 (\$3) voluntary check off on federal income tax forms
 - a) **CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION** by raising \$5,000 in 20 states [\$100,000] in increments of \$250 or less. (Minor or Third Party candidates must contest the General Election and receive 5% or more of the votes cast.)
 - b) **PHASE 1 (NOMINATION PERIOD)** \$20/2 or \$10 million (x COLA) in matched contributions of \$250 or less = \$48.0 M in 2016.
 - c) **PHASE 2 (NATIONAL CONVENTION)** \$4 million x COLA = \$18.2 M in 2012, but it was terminated by Congress on April 3, 2014.
 - d) **PHASE 3 (GENERAL ELECTION)** \$20 million x COLA = \$96.1 M in 2016.
- 3) **Contribution Limits**
 - a) Individuals: \$2,400 x COLA per election = \$2,700 in 2016 (with primaries, runoffs, and general elections considered to be separate elections)
 - b) Political Action Committees (PACs): \$5,000
 - c) \$10,000 per calendar year to a state or local party committee
 - d) \$30,000 per calendar year to a national party committee
 - e) \$115,500 biennial (2 year) limit for total contributions to federal candidates and federal political committees. Of the \$115,500, an individual can contribute **NO MORE THAN \$46,600** to candidates and \$69,900 to all PACs and political parties (no more than \$45,600 of the \$69,900 can be given to party committee that are not national committees).
- 4) **Volunteering in political campaigns**
 - a) **Personal Services**, e.g., leaflet distribution, calling, etc. have **NO LIMIT**
 - b) **Home Events**: \$1,000 per candidate; \$2,000 per party committee per year (husband and wife double the amounts).
 - c) **Corporate/Union Facilities** in connection with volunteer activity cannot interfere with normal work and must be an incidental use (i.e., 4 hours per month).
 - d) **Travel Expenses**: \$1,000 per election for candidate; \$2,000 per year for political party-related travel without making a contribution.