

Minnesota's Public Finance System – Explained

Did you know that Minnesota has taken steps to have clean elections by working to get money out of politics? Well, we have!

There are two parts to our public subsidy program:

Part 1: If a candidate promises to abide by pre-set campaign spending limits, then contributions to their campaign are eligible for the Political Contribution Refund Program. That is the program that will give campaign donors a refund for up to \$75 per person or \$150 per couple. You donate to the campaign. They provide you with a receipt and a form to fill out. You fill out the form, mail it in, and get a refund from the State of Minnesota. Contributions to party units are also eligible for this refund.

Why is this good? This program was intended to encourage small dollar donations to campaigns and party units. More people donate, and candidates are less dependent on single donors. Also, abiding by a spending limit keeps political spending from getting out of hand.

Part 2: If the candidate who has promised to abide by the spending limits in Part 1, is able to raise \$1,500 for a State House Campaign, or \$3,000 for a State Senate Campaign, they are also eligible for a public subsidy for their campaigns from the State of Minnesota. (We call this subsidy the “match” or public matching dollars.) This is a “carrot” to encourage candidates to abide by spending limits. In Senate District 31, the public subsidy is over \$14,000 for our Senate candidate and over \$6,000 for each of our House candidates!

The catch? To be eligible for the subsidy, the campaigns can only count the first \$50 received from each individual donor to get to their \$1,500 or \$3,000. That means a House candidate needs at least 30 donors (all giving \$50 or more) and a Senate candidate needs at least 60 donors (all giving \$50 or more) to qualify for the public subsidy. And they have from January 1, 2026 to July 20, 2026 to raise the money and file an Affidavit of Contributions to prove they raised it.

Another catch: All of these programs are only for state candidates. State candidates are running for State House, State Senate, State Auditor, Secretary of State, State Attorney General, or Governor and Lieutenant Governor. These programs are not available for federal or local candidates.

The public subsidies are a good deal for our candidates!

Please help them raise the money they need to earn their public subsidies.

Donate to Gadisa Berkessa for Minnesota State Senate at:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/gadisa-berkessa-1>

Donate to Brian Walker for Minnesota State House at:

<https://www.walkerforward.com/donate>

Donate to Jen Bloomquist for Minnesota State House at:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/jenformn>