



Represent Maryland's Clean Money Commission

Criteria for Certification

Part 1: Super PACs

Candidate will sign our pledge to not collude with superPACs*, as well as ask superPACs to not work on their behalf or against their opposition. Pledges will be shared through our social media and email channels. The candidate must also share this pledge through their website, social media and email channels.

(*Collusion is already illegal, but happens regularly. Candidates who believe in small money elections should be willing to publicly reinforce their commitment to this law).

Part 2: Small Money Commission Acceptable Campaign Contribution Sources

Option 1-Public Campaign Funds

If available in their district, candidate must elect to use public campaign funds, and if so follow their mandated guidelines.

If a candidate uses this option and meets the criteria above, they will automatically be certified as a small money candidate.

Option 2-Traditional Fundraising

The following pertains to candidates with no public financing option available. Because we understand that it's incredibly hard to run a successful campaign when only taking individual donations, the following criteria takes steps in the right direction while still allowing candidates to be competitive. As more public finance options become available, our criteria will become more strict.

- 1) Candidate will *strive* to collect at least **80%** of their total number of contributions from individual donors
- 2) Candidate will *strive* to collect at least **60%** of their total money collected from individual donors
- 3) Out of state individual donations should not exceed **25%** of total money raise
- 4) Candidate will publicly disclose all bundlers working on their behalf, including union PACs
- 5) Incumbents or those seeking a higher office only

Incumbent candidates may not accept donation from industries they are currently responsible for regulating, including corporate or industry PACs, Union PACs and non profits for a period of 3 years prior to the race they are seeking certification in.

Accepted contribution sources and types-Incumbents and New Candidates

Individual Donors

-Candidate can accept the legally allowed maximum, per cycle

In-State Small Businesses (Not publicly traded)

-Candidates can accept the legally maximum allowed, per cycle

Unions/Union PACs

-Candidates can accept the legal allowed maximum from any union, per cycle

-Unions who wish to support candidates with in-kind donations such as door knocking and phone banking should direct their interested members to the candidates committee for direct organizing and not organize on their behalf.

-Candidate must disclose any in-kind donations publicly (as listed above under bundlers)

Party Committees/PACs

-Candidate can accept the maximum allowed by law from each of their party committees, per cycle

Other Candidate PACs

-Candidates can accept the maximum allowed by law from other candidate committees, per cycle

Elected Officials (as individuals)

-Candidates can accept the maximum allowed by law from an elected official, as an individual, per cycle

-If the official is also the owner of a small business (not traded), the business can donate the maximum allowed by law, per cycle

-If the official is the chair of a caucus or leadership committee, the committee PAC can donate the maximum allowed by law, per cycle

In State Political Action Committees

-Candidates can accept the maximum allowed by law from a PAC which is NOT formed on behalf of a for-profit corporation or industry, per cycle (with the exception of unions, see above).

-Candidate will refuse any donations from PACs who work on behalf of for profit entities or industries (with the exception of unions, see above.)

Self Funded

-Candidates can 'self' accept donations up to, but no more than, 4 times the maximum allowed individual donation, through a combination* of self finance loans and personal contributions, per cycle

-The total combined amount accepted through these avenues cannot exceed \$24,000 per cycle

Financial Institutions/Loans

-No limit on the amount of money a candidate can borrow from a lending institution

Leadership PACs

-Candidate can accept the maximum allowed donation by law, per cycle

Non Profit Corporations

-Candidate can accept the maximum allowed donation from a qualified non-profit corporation, per cycle

-Candidate should strive to receive no more than 15% of non profit donations from out of state entities

Professional Associations/PACs

-Candidate can accept the maximum allowed donation, per cycle

Political Clubs/PACs

-Candidate can accept the maximum allowed donation from an in state political club, per cycle

-Candidate should not accept donations from out of state political clubs/PACs

Slate Committees/PACs

-Candidates may accept the maximum allowed donation from a slate committee, per cycle

Non-accepted contribution sources and types-Incumbents and New Candidates

For Profit Corporations/Corporate PACs

-Candidate should not accept donations from publicly traded corporations, whether in state or not.

Developers/Real Estate Firms

-Candidate should not accept donations from developers, whether in state or out of state.

Lobbyists and Lobbying Firms

-Candidate may not accept any campaign donations from lobbyists registered with the state of Maryland or the FEC

-Candidate may not accept any campaign donations from lobbying firms

-Candidate will not try to subvert this criterion by knowingly accepting donations from the spouses, employees or other family members of lobbyists.

Out of State PACs

-Candidates may not accept monetary donations from PACs registered outside of the state of Maryland

Candidate who wish to apply for Small Money Certification can do so by visiting:

<https://goo.gl/forms/2lDYRy3qsDrKlFjp2>