

## Proposition 15 Details

Proposition 15, the California Fair Elections Act, was put on the June 2010 ballot by the legislature and governor to create a pilot project providing voluntary public financing for candidates running for Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018. The Secretary of State makes an ideal test for public funding and will show how it will work in California. Prop 15 is patterned after the Fair Elections systems now working in Arizona, Maine and Connecticut, but adapted for California.

### How Fair Elections Funding Would Work

**To Qualify:** Candidates have to receive 7,500 \$5 qualifying contributions and signatures from registered California voters to show that they have a broad base of support.

**Fair Elections Candidates Receive:** Enough baseline public funds to run competitive primary campaigns (\$1,000,000). If they win their primary they receive enough baseline public funds to run competitive general election campaigns (\$1,300,000).

**"Fair Fight" Funds If Outspent:** If Fair Elections Candidates are outspent by an opponent who does not participate or if independent groups attack them or support their opponent, they receive matching funds on a dollar for dollar basis within 24 hours to respond, up to total of 4 times the base amount, i.e. \$4,000,000 in a primary and \$5,200,000 in the general election.

**Prohibitions for Participating Candidates:** Candidates would be prohibited from raising or spending additional money beyond what they receive from the fund.

**Strict Enforcement:** Participating candidates must follow strict reporting requirements. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future.

### Qualification and Funding Levels For Major Party Candidates\*

Max seed money (\$100 max per contributor)	\$75,000
Required \$5 contributions and signatures from registered voters to qualify	7,500
Baseline Primary funding amount	\$1,000,000
Max Primary Election funding including matching funds	\$4,000,000
Baseline General Election funding amount	\$1,300,000
Max General Election funding including matching funds	\$5,200,000

\*Third party and independent candidates require twice the normal number of qualifying contributions to "performance qualify" to receive full funding in the general election. They receive 25% of the base funding in the general election if they gather half the normal qualifying contributions (3,750).

### How Funding Levels Stack Up With Previous Elections

CFEA's base funding levels are about the same as what Secretary of State Debra Bowen spent in 2006. Its max funding including matching funds would have fully matched the highest spenders in both 2002 and 2006, assuring participating candidates a level financial playing field.

### Paid For By Registration Fees on Lobbyists and Voluntary Tax Contributions

CFEA will be paid for by voluntary contributions designated on state tax returns and by a registration fee of \$350 a year on lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers, the same as in Illinois, raising an estimated \$8.0 M over four years. Currently lobbyists only pay \$12.50 a year.