

## NEW LEGISLATION ALTERS FUNDRAISING RULES AND LIMITS FOR 2009 ELECTION

Recently passed legislation makes significant changes to the Campaign Finance Program. Some of these changes will impact the way campaigns raise and spend money, as well as the amounts of public funds available to candidates. A summary of these changes follows.

**New Matching Rate** Contributions from NYC residents will be matched at a rate of \$6-to-\$1, up to \$175 per contributor (for a maximum of \$1,050 in public funds per contributor). Previously, contributions were matched \$4-to-\$1 up to \$250 (for a maximum of \$1,000 in public funds).

**Spending Limits** The spending limits for each office will increase by 7.5 percent. Campaigns can spend up to this limit for the primary election, and again for the general election. The new limits are:

Mayor:	\$6,157,600
Public Advocate/Comptroller:	\$3,849,575
Borough President:	\$1,385,675
City Council:	\$ 161,250

In addition, campaigns have a separate spending limit for the years leading up to the election. For the 2009 election, this affects spending in the years 2006–2008. Any spending above this limit is counted against the cap for the next applicable election. These new limits are:

Mayor:	\$ 290,250
Public Advocate/Comptroller:	\$ 290,250
Borough President:	\$ 129,000
City Council:	\$ 43,000

**Maximum Public Funds Payments** The maximum public funds payment available to candidates for City office in each election is tied to the spending limit, and will increase accordingly. The new maximum payments are:

Mayor:	\$3,386,680
Public Advocate/Comptroller:	\$2,117,266
Borough President:	\$ 762,121
City Council:	\$ 88,688

**Ban on Contributions from LLCs and Partnerships** Campaigns will be prohibited from accepting contributions from limited liability companies and partnerships as of January 1, 2008.

**“Pay-to-Play” Limits** Campaigns will be restricted in accepting contributions from individuals or entities that are doing business with City government. These limits are: \$400 for citywide candidates (Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller); \$320 for Borough President; \$250 for City Council. Contributions from these sources will no longer be eligible to be matched with public funds. These limits will become effective as databases are created to monitor compliance with the law.

Contribution limits for all other contributors will remain the same, and are as follows:

Mayor:	\$4,950
Public Advocate/Comptroller:	\$4,950
Borough President:	\$3,850
City Council:	\$2,750