

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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IF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WERE HELD TODAY...

WASHINGTON — If the Presidential election were held in 1987, the Federal Election Commission calculates that each primary contender would be able to spend almost \$27 million seeking his or her party's nomination. Party nominees would be able to spend almost \$45 million in the general election.

The FEC releases figures one year in advance of the Presidential election year to meet the needs of campaigns in the early formative stages. The figures are NOT the final word in spending for the 1988 Presidential race. Official spending computations will not be available until early 1988, since they must be updated for changes in state voting age populations and cost-of-living adjustments.

The FEC figures include overall spending limits and limits for spending in each state. They apply only to those campaigns choosing to accept federal funds. Campaigns which opt to forego federal funding may spend unlimited amounts of money.

The overall "base" spending limit for Presidential primary campaigns is \$10 million, plus a cost-of-living adjustment (over 1974), which, at this time is calculated to be \$22,230,000. An additional 20% is allowed for certain fundraising expenses, effectively raising the amount primary contenders may spend to \$26,676,000 in the pre-convention period. Candidates may spend unlimited amounts for legal and accounting costs incurred in complying with the election law.

State spending limits are keyed to the voting age population of each state, (VAP), with a minimum of at least \$200,000, plus a cost-of-living adjustment for those states with a low VAP. The formula for setting state limits is:

$$16\% \times \text{VAP} + \text{Cost-of-Living} = \text{State Spending Limit}$$

For example, a less populated state, such as New Hampshire, would have a limit of \$200,000, plus cost-of-living, or \$444,600. A larger state, such as California, would have a limit of 16% x 19,949,000 (VAP), plus cost-of-living, or \$7,095,460.32.

The following lists the expenditure limits for each state. Remember—these are NOT the official figures for 1988.

1987 STATE-BY-STATE EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

State	VAP (in thousands)	Expenditure Limitations
Alabama	2,938	\$1,044,987.84
Alaska	358	444,600.00
Arizona	2,405	855,410.40
Arkansas	1,728	614,615.04
California	19,949	7,095,460.32
Colorado	2,396	852,209.28
Connecticut	2,438	867,147.84
Delaware	475	444,600.00

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State	VAP (in thousands)	Expenditure Limitations
Florida	9,071	3,226,373.28
Georgia	4,422	1,572,816.96
Hawaii	773	444,600.00
Idaho	682	444,600.00
Illinois	8,471	3,012,965.28
Indiana	4,013	1,427,343.84
Iowa	2,095	745,149.60
Kansas	1,792	637,378.56
Kentucky	2,715	965,671.20
Louisiana	3,150	1,120,392.00
Maine	871	444,600.00
Maryland	3,359	1,194,729.12
Massachusetts	4,480	1,593,446.40
Michigan	6,675	2,374,164.00
Minnesota	3,075	1,093,716.00
Mississippi	1,842	655,162.56
Missouri	3,733	1,327,753.44
Montana	588	444,600.00
Nebraska	1,154	444,600.00
Nevada	740	444,600.00
New Hampshire	769	444,600.00
New Jersey	5,761	2,049,072.48
New Mexico	1,023	444,600.00
New York	13,437	4,779,272.16
North Carolina	4,740	1,685,923.20
North Dakota	484	444,600.00
Ohio	7,905	2,811,650.40
Oklahoma	2,379	846,162.72
Oregon	1,990	707,803.20
Pennsylvania	9,031	3,212,146.08
Rhode Island	751	444,600.00
South Carolina	2,460	874,972.80
South Dakota	503	444,600.00
Tennessee	3,572	1,270,488.96
Texas	11,792	4,194,178.56
Utah	1,046	444,600.00
Vermont	401	444,600.00
Virginia	4,337	1,542,584.16
Washington	3,271	1,163,429.28
West Virginia	1,415	503,287.20
Wisconsin	3,508	1,247,725.44
Wyoming	348	444,600.00

District of Columbia & Territories

American Samoa	19	444,600.00
District of Columbia	495	444,600.00
Guam	75	444,600.00
Puerto Rico	2,038	724,875.84
Virgin Islands	64	444,600.00

General Election Limits

Candidate Limit	\$44,460,000.00
National Party Committee Limit (2¢ x U.S. VAP + COLA)	\$ 7,905,299.22