

(5) The term “fund” means the Presidential Election Campaign Fund established by section 9006(a).

(6) The term “major party” means, with respect to any presidential election, a political party whose candidate for the office of President in the preceding presidential election received, as the candidate of such party, 25 percent or more of the total number of popular votes received by all candidates for such office.

(7) The term “minor party” means, with respect to any presidential election, a political party whose candidate for the office of President in the preceding presidential election received, as the candidate of such party, 5 percent or more but less than 25 percent of the total number of popular votes received by all candidates for such office.

(8) The term “new party” means, with respect to any presidential election, a political party which is neither a major party nor a minor party.

(9) The term “political committee” means any committee, association, or organization (whether or not incorporated) which accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing, or attempting to influence, the nomination or election of one or more individuals to Federal, State, or local elective public office.

(10) The term “presidential election” means the election of presidential and vice-presidential electors.

(11) The term “qualified campaign expense” means an expense—

(A) incurred (i) by the candidate of a political party for the office of President to further his election to such office or to further the election of the candidate of such political party for the office of Vice President, or both (ii) by the candidate of a political party for the office of Vice President to further his election to such office or to further the election of the candidate of such political party for the office of President, or both, or (iii) by an authorized committee of the candidates of a political party for the offices of President and Vice President to further the election of either or both of such candidates to such offices,

(B) incurred within the expenditure report period (as defined in paragraph (12)), or incurred before the beginning of such period to the extent such expense is for property, services, or facilities used during such period, and

(C) neither the incurring nor payment of which constitutes a violation of any law of the United States or of the State in which such expense is incurred or paid.

An expense shall be considered as incurred by a candidate or an authorized committee if it is incurred by a person authorized by such candidate or such committee, as the case may be, to incur such expense on behalf of such candidate or such committee. If an authorized committee of the candidates of a political party for President and Vice President of the United States also incurs expenses to further the election of one or more other individuals

to Federal, State, or local elective public office, expenses incurred by such committee which are not specifically to further the election of such other individual or individuals shall be considered as incurred to further the election of such candidates for President and Vice President in such proportion as the Commission prescribes by rules or regulations.

(12) The term “expenditure report period” with respect to any presidential election means—

(A) in the case of a major party, the period beginning with the first day of September before the election, or, if earlier, with the date on which such major party at its national convention nominated its candidate for election to the office of President of the United States, and ending 30 days after the date of the presidential election; and

(B) in the case of a party which is not a major party, the same period as the expenditure report period of the major party which has the shortest expenditure report period for such presidential election under subparagraph (A).

(Added Pub. L. 92-178, title VIII, §801, Dec. 10, 1971, 85 Stat. 563; amended Pub. L. 93-443, title IV, §404(c)(1)-(3), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1292; Pub. L. 94-283, title I, §115(c)(1), title III, §306(a)(1), May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 495, 499; Pub. L. 110-172, §11(a)(42)(A), Dec. 29, 2007, 121 Stat. 2488.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 306(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, referred to in par. (3), is classified to section 30106(a)(1) of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Par. (3). Pub. L. 110-172 substituted “section 306(a)(1)” for “section 309(a)(1)”.

1976—Par. (2). Pub. L. 94-283, §306(a)(1), inserted provision that “candidate” shall not include any individual who has ceased actively to seek election to the office of President of the United States or to the office of Vice President of the United States, in more than one State.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 94-283, §115(c)(1), substituted “309(a)(1)” for “310(a)(1)”.

1974—Par. (1). Pub. L. 93-443, §404(c)(2), substituted “Commission” for “Comptroller General”.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 93-443, §404(c)(1), substituted definition of “Commission” for “Comptroller General”.

Par. (11). Pub. L. 93-443, §404(c)(3), substituted “Commission” for “Comptroller General” in third sentence.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-283, title III, §306(c), May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 501, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 9003, 9032, and 9033 of this title] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [May 11, 1976].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-443 applicable with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1974, see section 410(c)(1) of Pub. L. 93-443, set out as a note under section 30101 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

§ 9003. Condition for eligibility for payments

(a) In general

In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidates of a political

party in a presidential election shall, in writing—

- (1) agree to obtain and furnish to the Commission such evidence as it may request of the qualified campaign expenses of such candidates,
- (2) agree to keep and furnish to the Commission such records, books, and other information as it may request, and
- (3) agree to an audit and examination by the Commission under section 9007 and to pay any amounts required to be paid under such section.

(b) Major parties

In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidates of a major party in a presidential election shall certify to the Commission, under penalty of perjury, that—

- (1) such candidates and their authorized committees will not incur qualified campaign expenses in excess of the aggregate payments to which they will be entitled under section 9004, and
- (2) no contributions to defray qualified campaign expenses have been or will be accepted by such candidates or any of their authorized committees except to the extent necessary to make up any deficiency in payments received out of the fund on account of the application of section 9006(c), and no contributions to defray expenses which would be qualified campaign expenses but for subparagraph (C) of section 9002(11) have been or will be accepted by such candidates or any of their authorized committees.

Such certification shall be made within such time prior to the day of the presidential election as the Commission shall prescribe by rules or regulations.

(c) Minor and new parties

In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidates of a minor or new party in a presidential election shall certify to the Commission, under penalty of perjury, that—

- (1) such candidates and their authorized committees will not incur qualified campaign expenses in excess of the aggregate payments to which the eligible candidates of a major party are entitled under section 9004, and
- (2) such candidates and their authorized committees will accept and expend or retain contributions to defray qualified campaign expenses only to the extent that the qualified campaign expenses incurred by such candidates and their authorized committees certified to under paragraph (1) exceed the aggregate payments received by such candidates out of the fund pursuant to section 9006.

Such certification shall be made within such time prior to the day of the presidential election as the Commission shall prescribe by rules or regulations.

(d) Withdrawal by candidate

In any case in which an individual ceases to be a candidate as a result of the operation of the last sentence of section 9002(2), such individual—

(1) shall no longer be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, except that such individual shall be eligible to receive payments under such section to defray qualified campaign expenses incurred while actively seeking election to the office of President of the United States or to the office of Vice President of the United States in more than one State; and

(2) shall pay to the Secretary, as soon as practicable after the date upon which such individual ceases to be a candidate, an amount equal to the amount of payments received by such individual under section 9006 which are not used to defray qualified campaign expenses.

(e) Closed captioning requirement

No candidate for the office of President or Vice President may receive amounts from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund under this chapter or chapter 96 unless such candidate has certified that any television commercial prepared or distributed by the candidate will be prepared in a manner which ensures that the commercial contains or is accompanied by closed captioning of the oral content of the commercial to be broadcast in line 21 of the vertical blanking interval, or is capable of being viewed by deaf and hearing impaired individuals via any comparable successor technology to line 21 of the vertical blanking interval.

(Added Pub. L. 92-178, title VIII, §801, Dec. 10, 1971, 85 Stat. 564; amended Pub. L. 93-53, §6(c), July 1, 1973, 87 Stat. 139; Pub. L. 93-443, title IV, §§404(c)(4), (5), 405(b), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1292, 1294; Pub. L. 94-283, title III, §306(a)(2), May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 500; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834; Pub. L. 102-393, title V, §534(a), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1764; Pub. L. 115-141, div. U, title IV, §401(a)(338), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1200.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 115-141 substituted “section 9006(c)” for “section 9006(d)”.

1992—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-393 added subsec. (e).

1976—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary”.

Pub. L. 94-283 added subsec. (d).

1974—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-443, §§404(c)(4), 405(b), substituted “Commission” and “it” for “Comptroller General” and “he”, respectively, wherever appearing, struck out in par. (1) “with respect to which payment is sought” after “campaign expenses” and struck out par. (4) requirement for an agreement to furnish statements of qualified campaign expenses and proposed qualified campaign expenses required under section 9008 of this title.

Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 93-443, §404(c)(5), substituted “Commission” for “Comptroller General” wherever appearing.

1973—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 93-53 substituted section “9006(d)” for “9006(c)”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 102-393, title V, §534(b), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1764, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to

amounts made available under chapter 95 or 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 more than thirty days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 6, 1992].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-283 effective May 11, 1976, see section 306(c) of Pub. L. 94-283, set out as a note under section 9002 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-443 applicable with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1974, see section 410(c)(1) of Pub. L. 93-443, set out as a note under section 30101 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-53 applicable with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1972, see section 6(d) of Pub. L. 93-53, set out as a note under section 6096 of this title.

§ 9004. Entitlement of eligible candidates to payments

(a) In general

Subject to the provisions of this chapter—

(1) The eligible candidates of each major party in a presidential election shall be entitled to equal payments under section 9006 in an amount which, in the aggregate, shall not exceed the expenditure limitations applicable to such candidates under section 315(b)(1)(B) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

(2)(A) The eligible candidates of a minor party in a presidential election shall be entitled to payments under section 9006 equal in the aggregate to an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount allowed under paragraph (1) for a major party as the number of popular votes received by the candidate for President of the minor party, as such candidate, in the preceding presidential election bears to the average number of popular votes received by the candidates for President of the major parties in the preceding presidential election.

(B) If the candidate of one or more political parties (not including a major party) for the office of President was a candidate for such office in the preceding presidential election and received 5 percent or more but less than 25 percent of the total number of popular votes received by all candidates for such office, such candidate and his running mate for the office of Vice President, upon compliance with the provisions of section 9003(a) and (c), shall be treated as eligible candidates entitled to payments under section 9006 in an amount computed as provided in subparagraph (A) by taking into account all the popular votes received by such candidate for the office of President in the preceding presidential election. If eligible candidates of a minor party are entitled to payments under this subparagraph, such entitlement shall be reduced by the amount of the entitlement allowed under subparagraph (A).

(3) The eligible candidates of a minor party or a new party in a presidential election whose candidate for President in such election receives, as such candidate, 5 percent or more of the total number of popular votes cast for the office of President in such election shall be en-

titled to payments under section 9006 equal in the aggregate to an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount allowed under paragraph (1) for a major party as the number of popular votes received by such candidate in such election bears to the average number of popular votes received in such election by the candidates for President of the major parties. In the case of eligible candidates entitled to payments under paragraph (2), the amount allowable under this paragraph shall be limited to the amount, if any, by which the entitlement under the preceding sentence exceeds the amount of the entitlement under paragraph (2).

(b) Limitations

The aggregate payments to which the eligible candidates of a political party shall be entitled under subsections (a)(2) and (3) with respect to a presidential election shall not exceed an amount equal to the lower of—

(1) the amount of qualified campaign expenses incurred by such eligible candidates and their authorized committees, reduced by the amount of contributions to defray qualified campaign expenses received and expended or retained by such eligible candidates and such committees, or

(2) the aggregate payments to which the eligible candidates of a major party are entitled under subsection (a)(1), reduced by the amount of contributions described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) Restrictions

The eligible candidates of a political party shall be entitled to payments under subsection (a) only—

(1) to defray qualified campaign expenses incurred by such eligible candidates or their authorized committees, or

(2) to repay loans the proceeds of which were used to defray such qualified campaign expenses, or otherwise to restore funds (other than contributions to defray qualified campaign expenses received and expended by such candidates or such committees) used to defray such qualified campaign expenses.

(d) Expenditures from personal funds

In order to be eligible to receive any payment under section 9006, the candidate of a major, minor, or new party in an election for the office of President shall certify to the Commission, under penalty of perjury, that such candidate will not knowingly make expenditures from his personal funds, or the personal funds of his immediate family, in connection with his campaign for election to the office of President in excess of, in the aggregate, \$50,000. For purposes of this subsection, expenditures from personal funds made by a candidate of a major, minor, or new party for the office of Vice President shall be considered to be expenditures by the candidate of such party for the office of President.

(e) Definition of immediate family

For purposes of subsection (d), the term “immediate family” means a candidate’s spouse, and any child, parent, grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the candidate, and the spouses of such persons.