

**Side by Side Comparison
Current Law v. FACE Bill (SF998)**

Prepared by Minnesotans for Fair and Clean Elections (FACE)

Table of Contents

Participating Candidates.....	2
Independent Expenditures.....	4
Political Parties.....	5
Non-Participating Candidates.....	6
Other Limits	7
Misc. Provisions.....	8

For Candidates that Choose to Participate in the system:

Size of Qualifying Contributions:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
At least \$50	At least \$5

Number of Qualifying Contributions Needed:

	Current Law		FACE Proposal	
	# needed	\$ needed	# needed	\$ needed
Gov	700	\$35,000	4500	\$22,500
AG	300	\$15,000	2500	\$12,500
SOS/ SA	200	\$6,000	2500	\$12,500
Sen	60	\$3,000	360	\$1,800
Rep.	30	\$1,500	180	\$900

Public Subsidy:

Formula	Current Law	FACE Proposal
	Up to 50% of spending limit	80% of spending limit
Gov.	Approximate Averages: \$497,000	\$1,520,000
AG	\$126,000	\$300,000
SOS/SA	\$64,000	\$300,000
Sen.	\$12,540	\$37,000
Rep.	\$6,140	\$18,500

Political Contribution Refund for Candidates:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
yes	no

Spending Limits:

	Current Law	FACE Proposal
Formula		Public Subsidy + Party Contribution (25% of subsidy)
Gov.	\$1,926,127	\$1,900,000
AG	\$321,023	\$375,000
SOS	\$160,514	\$375,000
Sen.	\$50,630	\$46,250
Rep.	\$25,320	\$23,125

Timing of Payments:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
Party and General Account subsidies sent within one week of primary.	20% as soon as they qualify (as early as Jan. 1 of the election year) 20% after filings 60% after primary

Contribution Limits to Participating Candidates from Individuals, PACs and Lobbyists:

	Current Law	FACE Proposal
Gov	\$2000 election yr/\$500 off yr	\$50/ election cycle
AG	\$1000 /\$200	\$50
SOS /SA	\$500 /\$100	\$50
Sen	\$500 /\$100	\$50
Rep	\$500 /\$100	\$50

Contribution Limits to Participating Candidates from Political Parties:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
10x individual limit	25% of the candidate's spending limit, <u>in addition to</u> what they can already spend

Independent Expenditures

Definition of Independent Expenditure:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
<p>Communications that use the “magic words”, such as “vote for”, “vote against”, “support, “defeat” or synonyms.</p>	<p>Current law,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plus expenditures of over \$100 in a legislative race or \$500 in a statewide race that use a candidate’s name or image within 45 days of the primary or 60 days of the general election are presumed to be expenditures. • Expenditures are presumed to be coordinated if the person doing the expenditure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) uses the same consulting firm as the candidate; 2) replicates the candidate’s campaign materials; 1) receives information from the candidate; 2) tells the candidate about the expenditure; or 3) serves as a key player in the candidate’s campaign.

Independent Expenditures by Parties

Current Law	FACE Proposal
OK	Not allowed as a condition of the public subsidy

Reporting for Independent Expenditures

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	<p>Must be reported within 48 hours of disseminating or causing aggregate expenditures of over \$500 to be disseminated.</p> <p>During the last three weeks, expenditures must be reported within 24 hours.</p>

Do independent expenditures trigger spending limits being lifted & public matching funds?:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
no	yes

Matching Funds for Independent Expenditures:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	The candidate receives matching funds 1) equal to the amount of the expenditure if it's negative, 2) equal to half of the amount of the expenditure, if it's positive

Political Parties

Contribution Limits to Political Parties (and other party units):

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	\$10,000 / election cycle

Subsidies for Political Parties:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check off • Political Contribution Refund (PCR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR

Conditions of Subsidies for Political Parties:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	• no independent expenditures

Contribution Limits from Political Parties to Participating Candidates:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
10x individual limit	25% of the candidate's spending limit, in addition to what they can already spend

Contribution Limits from Political Parties to Non-Participating Candidates:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
10x individual limit	Same as current law.

Multi-Candidate Expenditure Exemptions:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
1) expenditures on behalf of the candidates of that party generally; 2) expenditures for official party sample ballot, listing 3 or more candidates; 3) expenditures for phone calls, referring to 3 or more candidates; 4) expenditures for fundraising for 3 or more candidates; 5) expenditures for staff services for 3 or more candidates	1) expenditures on behalf of the candidates of that party generally; 2) expenditures not on behalf of any candidate; 3) expenditures for official party sample ballot, listing 3 or more candidates

Non-Participating Candidates

Contribution Limits to Non-Participating Candidates from individuals and PACs:

	Current Law	FACE Proposal
Gov	\$2000 election yr / \$500 off yr	\$2,000 / election cycle
AG	\$1000 / \$200	\$1,000
SOS	\$500 / \$100	\$1,000
Sen	\$500 / \$100	\$500
Rep	\$500 / \$100	\$500

Contribution Limits to Non-Participating Candidates from Political Parties:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
10x individual limit	Same as current law.

Reporting Excess Fundraising:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
After 10 days before the primary, a non-participating candidate must report within 24 hours of raising or spending 50% or more of the participating candidate's spending limit.	<p>First report due within 7 days of raising more than a participating candidate has at their disposal.</p> <p>Subsequent reports due weekly.</p> <p>During the last 3 weeks, reports are due each time the candidate raises, in aggregate, more than the contribution limit for that office.</p>

Does excess fundraising trigger spending limits being lifted & public matching funds?:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
yes	yes

Other Limits

Aggregate Contribution Limits for Individuals:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	\$10,000 /election cycle

Contribution Limits to PAC's from Individuals:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	\$1,000/calendar year

Contribution Limits to PAC's from other PAC's:

Current Law	FACE Proposal
n/a	0

Misc. Provisions

Does it require candidates, parties & PACs to File Electronically?

Current Law	FACE Proposal
no	yes

Does it require the Campaign Finance Board to Post Filings on Web?

Current Law	FACE Proposal
no	yes

Does it require public stations to provide participating candidates with Free TV / Radio Time?

Current Law	FACE Proposal
no	yes