

Discussion of potential public matching funds savings by holding only a single PRCV election instead of LA's two-round process, where matching funds are allocated twice to candidates advancing to a run-off

How much could these savings be? That would depend upon many factors. See this discussion based upon preliminary figures from the LA City Ethics Commission.

- According to preliminary figures from the LA City Ethics Commission, between 2015 through 2024, [approximately 1/3 of candidates](#) (57/183 or 31%) who qualified for and received public matching funds in the primary, also appeared on the general election ballot and received matching funds a second time. (The other races were decided in the primary.)

Starting with the 2020 elections (after the 6:1 public matching funds program went into effect), 51/157 primary election city council candidates qualified for and received public matching funds. Of the 51, 17 appeared on general election ballots, again approximately 1/3 receiving matching funds a second time.

Assuming the same number of candidates would qualify for matching funds in a single PRCV General Election as in a primary under the current system, this '1/3 number of campaigns funded' would be the number of campaigns that currently go to a run-off that would no longer be needed to be funded a second time - or to be more conservative, maybe 3/10.

- According to preliminary figures from the LA City Ethics Commission, the average amount of [primary election public financing](#) received per qualifying city council candidate was \$136,590.86 in 2022 and \$152,261.96 in 2024; and the total amount allocated per seat was \$409,772.58 in 2022 and \$431,408.90 in 2024.

- According to preliminary figures from the LA City Ethics Commission, the average amount of [general election public financing](#) received per qualifying city council candidate was \$184,679.99 in 2022 and \$202,030.28 in 2024, and the total amount allocated per seat was \$369,359.99 in 2022 and \$404,060.57 in 2024.

In the future, it is unknown how many candidates would run and seek public matching funds running for seats on an enlarged city council. But based upon past recent trends, going to a single PRCV/RCV general election could eliminate the need to fund approximately 30% of candidates with public matching funds a second time.