



**Board of
Elections**

2014 Pilot Public Financing Program for the Office of the State Comptroller

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The New York State Board of Elections (the State Board) is vested with the authority and responsibility for the execution and enforcement of all laws relating to the elective franchise and its administration, the full and complete disclosure of campaign financing practices, and the promotion and maintenance of citizen confidence in and full participation in the political process of our state. This responsibility is set forth not only in the statutory mandates of the Election Law and its rules and regulations, but is also reflected in the goals and objectives of the bi-partisan Commissioners of the State Board.

Part D of Chapter 55 of the Laws of 2014 created a Public Financing Pilot Program for the 2014 election to the Office of State Comptroller. This program was enacted on March 31, 2014 and had an immediate effective date. The 2014 Election for the Office of the State Comptroller was held on November 4, 2014. There was no primary election for this Office. This program contained a sunset provision of December 31, 2014.

A requirement of Part D of Chapter 55 of the Laws of 2014 is for the State Board to report to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly on five specific issues as enacted into statute.

The issues which must be addressed are:

- A list of participating and non-participating candidates in covered elections and the votes received by each candidate;
- The amount of contributions and loans received, and the expenditures made, on behalf of these candidates;
- The amount of public matching funds each participating candidate received, spent and repaid;
- Analysis of the effect of this title on political campaigns including its effect on the sources and amounts of private financing, the level of campaign expenditures, voter participation, the number of candidates, the candidates' ability to campaign effectively for public office, and the diversity of the candidates seeking and elected to office; and
- Recommendations for amendments to this title, including changes in contribution limits, thresholds for eligibility, and any other features of the system.

A List of Participating Candidates and Non-Participating Candidates in Covered Elections and the Votes received by each Candidate.

Participating Candidates:

- Robert E. Antonacci II, Republican, Conservative & Stop Common Core Party Candidate
 - Total Votes: 1,180,791

Non-Participating Candidates:

- Thomas P. DiNapoli, Democratic, Working Families, Independence and Women's Equality Party Candidate
 - Total Votes: 1,971,182
- John Clifton, Libertarian Party Candidate
 - Total Votes: 23,029
- Theresa Portelli, Green Party Candidate
 - Total Votes: 85,905

**The amount of contributions and loans received, and the expenditures made,
on behalf of these candidates**

2014 Comptroller Candidates

Candidate	DiNapoli	Antonacci	Portelli	Clifton
Total Contributions	\$6,014,502.42	\$223,398.38 ¹	Filed In Lieu Of Statement ²	Filed In Lieu Of Statement
# of Contributions Rec'd	4227	855		
Average Contribution	\$1,422.88	\$261.28		
Total Expenditures	\$4,415,288.27	\$151,912.89		
# of Expenditures Made	1304	213		
Average Expenditures	\$3,385.96	\$713.21		

¹This figure includes a \$10,000 transfer from C31287 Antonacci for Accountability

²An In-Lieu-Of- Statement is a type of report that can be filed where at the close of the reporting period in question, neither the total receipts nor total expenditures of the campaign have exceeded \$1,000.

The amount of public matching funds each participating candidate received, spent and repaid.

The participating candidate did not become eligible to receive public matching funds. No public matching funds were paid to a candidate by New York State.

Analysis of the effect of this title on political campaigns including its effect on the sources and amounts of private financing, the level of campaign expenditures, voter participation, the number of candidates, the candidates' ability to campaign effectively for public office, and the diversity of the candidates seeking and elected to office

Chart A in the Appendix provides a chart comparing statistical data from the 2010 General Election for the Office of the State Comptroller and data from the 2014 General Election for the Office of the State Comptroller.

Common themes in both elections is that there were four candidates in the election. In both elections, two of the major party candidates were able to raise a substantial amount of funds.

It is important to note that the 2014 program was to be implemented nearly 3 ½ years into the election cycle for this office.

Recommendations for amendments to this title, including changes in contribution limits, thresholds for eligibility, and any other features of the system.

The State Board was prepared to administer the entire program but anticipated potential problems with a full program roll out because of the extremely short implementation timeframe. With no qualified participant or full program implementation, it is difficult and somewhat impractical for the Board to make comments to improve the program.

However, even with the limited implementation of the program, the following recommendations, based solely on anticipated areas of significant concern, would improve the administration of the program:

- The mandated entity should be provided with two years to implement a program.
- Funding should be provided for the creation of public financing software for claim submission and audit review/ payment.
- Other state agencies that house residential data and lobbyist data should provide access to such databases for audit purposes.
- The deadline for submission of an opt-in certification form for those who plan to run for office should be no later than April 1 of said election year.
- The eligibility threshold to participate should be met by July 15th of that year.
- Weekly submissions should occur on Mondays rather than Fridays.
- Eliminate weekly payments/submissions. Submissions should be made to coincide with the Monday following the July periodic report; the 32 day pre-primary report; the 11 pre-primary report; the 10 post primary report; the 32 day pre general report, the 11 pre general report and the 27 day post general report; regardless if a candidate is in a primary election.

Appendix

Chart A

Comparison of statistical data from the 2010 General Election for the Office of the State Comptroller and data from the 2014 General Election for the Office of the State Comptroller.

2010 Comptroller Candidates

Candidate	DiNapoli	Wilson	Willebrand	Gaetani
Total Contributions	\$4,252,376.98	\$3,231,175.20	NA	\$4,385.34
# of Contributions Rec'd	3923	1953	NA	24
Average Contribution	\$1,083.96	\$1,654.47	NA	\$178.01
Total Expenditures	\$4,108,301.65	\$6,959,455.21	NA	\$4,088.29
# of Expenditures Made	1336	709	NA	69
Average Expenditures	\$3,075.08	\$9,815.87	NA	\$59.25
Votes Received	2,271,666	2,069,427	104,445	27,882

NA means that In-Lieu of Statements were filed. This type of statement is filed when at the close of the applicable reporting period, neither the total receipts nor the total expenditures of the campaign have exceeded \$1,000.

2014 Comptroller Candidates

Candidate	DiNapoli	Antonacci	Portelli	Clifton
Total Contributions	\$6,014,502.42	\$223,398.38 ¹	NA	NA
# of Contributions Rec'd	4227	855	NA	NA
Average Contribution	\$1,422.88	\$261.28	NA	NA
Total Expenditures	\$4,415,288.27	213	NA	NA
# of Expenditures Made	1304	\$151,912.89	NA	NA
Average Expenditures	\$3,385.96	\$713.21	NA	NA
Votes Received	2,233,057	1,354,643	97,906	26,583

NA means that In-Lieu of Statements were filed. This type of statement is filed when at the close of the applicable reporting period, neither the total receipts nor the total expenditures of the campaign have exceeded \$1,000.

¹This figure includes a \$10,000 transfer from C31287 Antonacci for Accountability