

Waste Action Alert

A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)  
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman

## Eliminate the Presidential Election Campaign Fund

November 4, 2009

**Program or Item Targeted:** Presidential Election Campaign Fund

**Five-Year Cost of Program or Item:** \$260 million.

**Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted:** The Presidential Election Campaign Fund provides matching funds to candidates during the presidential primaries, funds for political conventions, and funding for third party candidates (who qualify). *In short, it provides taxpayer subsidies to political candidates.* In return for these taxpayer funds, a presidential candidate must abide by limits on campaign spending. In recent elections, candidates who abide by these limits are put at a severe disadvantage. The spending limits make it harder for candidates with lower name recognition, or non-incumbents, to be competitive. In addition, the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, with the limits attached to participating in it, gives advantages to candidates who can self-finance (and thus easily avoid participating in the program). The program was created in the 1970s in an attempt to reduce the influence of money in campaigns, and to reduce the time required of candidates to raise money. By any analysis, it has failed to accomplish these objectives.

**Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful:** While the federal budget runs record-setting deficits (last year's deficit was \$1.4 trillion, three times greater than any previous deficit in U.S. history), the Presidential Election Fund provides subsidies to political campaigns. Taxpayers, and their children and grandchildren, should not have to shoulder the burden of subsidies for political campaigns.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** RSC Members are encouraged to co-sponsor H.R. 2993, which eliminates taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns—saving taxpayers \$260 million over five years. The legislation is authored by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail [brad.watson@mail.house.gov](mailto:brad.watson@mail.house.gov).

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact [ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov](mailto:ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov).

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it, working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*