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#### FULL DISCLOSURE

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### Candidates Focus on the Voters When Fundraising

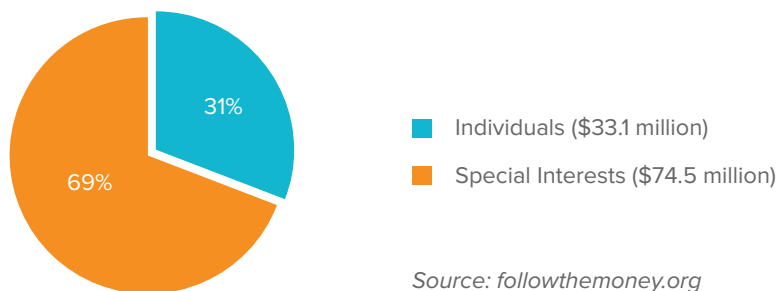
New York City's public financing system has been in the spotlight in recent months. When we discuss the program and its benefits, people often ask what New Yorkers get for their investment in city elections. The answer is simple: candidates and elections that focus on voters instead of special interests.

The proof? So far in 2013, candidates have raised 93 percent of their contributions from individuals, and more than two-thirds of those contributions have come from New York City residents. Just seven percent of the contributions raised by candidates have come from special interests.\*

#### Contributions to New York City Candidates for 2013 Elections



#### Contributions to New York State Legislative Candidates in 2012



Source: followthemoney.org

By contrast, candidates for the New York State legislature in 2012 raised nearly 70 percent of their contributions from special interests (including corporate contributions). Just 31 percent came from individuals.

We believe that candidates who focus their fundraising efforts on individual voters while running for office are much more likely to focus on the everyday concerns of those voters while in office.

\* For this analysis, "special interest" contributions are any contribution made by an entity, including unions, political action committees, or political parties. In Chart 2, "special interest" contributions to state legislative candidates also include contributions from corporations. Candidates for office in New York City may not accept corporate contributions.

## Federal Courts Affirm NYC’s Public Funding Program

New York City’s Campaign Finance Program won a big court victory earlier this month in *Ognibene v. Parkes*. The decision from U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain upholds much of the law’s “sure winners” provision, which limits public funds payments to candidates who do not face meaningful competition.

The “sure winners” provision allows the CFB to withhold a portion of the public funds payments in non-competitive races. Candidates may certify that they need additional funds by using a set of objective criteria, such as an opponent’s endorsements or significant media exposure, to demonstrate that they face significant opposition. While Judge Swain’s decision strikes down an additional trigger based on an opponent’s financial activity, her ruling upholds all of the other criteria.

“This decision states in clear terms that the law can limit the payment of public funds in non-competitive elections,” says CFB Executive Director Amy Loprest. “This victory allows the CFB to hold on to an important tool for maintaining public confidence in the City’s campaign finance program.”

The decision effectively closes the books on the *Ognibene v. Parkes*, which was filed in 2008, because neither party plans to appeal. A decision by the same district court in 2009 upheld the City’s “pay-to-play” restrictions (also known as the “Doing Business” contribution limits) and the ban on corporate contributions. The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld that ruling in 2011 and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case last year.



### Top Tweets @NYCCFB

Since joining Twitter in 2011, the CFB has been unspooling campaign finance data for the #NYC2013 citywide election 140 characters at a time. Our feed is most popular in the days leading up to candidate disclosure deadlines, which we fondly call #FilingDay. As filings come in, we tweet the net contributions reported by each candidate. Like the Top Searches, the top tweets below (defined as those that were most frequently re-tweeted) indicate public interest in the disclosures that are the bedrock of the City’s campaign finance program. Enjoy!

#### Top #FilingDay Tweets (March 12 – March 16, 2013)

- Anthony D. Weiner (@NYCMayor), net contributions from 1/12/13 – 3/11/13: -\$6,284 #FilingDay [\[tweet\]](#)
- Joseph J. Lhota (@JoeLhota4Mayor) (#NYCMayor), net contributions from 1/12/13 – 3/11/13: \$731,601 #FilingDay [\[tweet\]](#)

- John C. Liu @JohnLiu2013, net contributions from 1/12/13-3/11/13: \$105,775 #FilingDay [\[tweet\]](#)

#### Top Tweets April 1 – April 29, 2013

- Eric A. Ulrich @eric\_ulrich has registered as a candidate for #CD32 in the #NYC2013 elections. <http://ow.ly/jWue4> [\[tweet\]](#)
- Vito J. Lopez registered as a candidate for #CD34 in the #NYC2013 elections. <http://ow.ly/jRMVE> [\[tweet\]](#)
- Evergreen Chou has registered as a candidate for #CD20 in the #NYC2013 elections. <http://ow.ly/jGcXN> [\[tweet\]](#)
- Public campaign financing assures accountability: <http://ow.ly/keN1d> [\[tweet\]](#)

## APRIL BOARD ACTIONS

### Violations and Penalties

Candidate	Election	Office Sought	Penalty
<a href="#">Larry B. Seabrook</a>	2009	CD #12	\$0

### Public Funds Repayment

Candidate	Election	Office Sought	Repayment
<a href="#">Larry B. Seabrook</a>	2009	CD #12	\$2,288

The Board voted to reduce a penalty from the [March 14 Board meeting](#) for James G. Van Bramer’s 2009 Council campaign, to \$4,000.

The Board also voted to adopt [final Board rules](#) that clarify certain CFB procedures, and amend the rules regarding the Voter Guide.

# CANDIDATE CORNER

**NEXT FILING DEADLINE:  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15!**

## Providing Candidates Service with a Smile

With fundraising for the 2013 elections in full swing, candidates for office in New York City are seeking assistance from the CFB on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. When the candidates come calling, the CFB's Candidate Services Unit (CSU) is prepared to help.

The staff members of CSU provide clear and consistent guidance to help candidates comply with the law. CSU's relationship with candidates starts with weekly trainings for candidates and campaign representatives, which introduce them to the CFB's web-based disclosure software and the rules candidates must follow. Throughout campaign season, CSU is available to answer specific questions about the proper way to file disclosures, keep track of campaign contributions and expenditures, and more. (Two of the top questions lately have been, "[How do I register my campaign with the CFB?](#)" and "[How do I transfer funds from a previous election into this campaign?](#)").

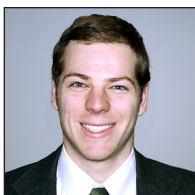
Clearly, CSU liaisons play a big role in the city's elections. Here's a brief look at the CSU candidate liaison team that will be helping candidates this election cycle:



Jack Beeson was born in Iowa, but went south to the University of Missouri-Columbia to study journalism and Spanish. Later, he put the Spanish to good use earning a Masters in business while living in Madrid. Jack enjoys traveling internationally whenever he has the opportunity to get away.



Joanne Bianco is a life-long New Yorker. Born and raised in the Flatbush/Midwood section of Brooklyn, she now lives in Howard Beach, Queens. Prior to joining the CFB, Joanne worked as an executive assistant in retail and investment banking. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially cooking and baking for her five grandchildren. She hopes to visit Italy one day.



Chris Dragotakes is an alum of Skidmore College, where he majored in American History. Originally from Boston, Chris moved to New York City via Saratoga Springs in upstate New York. In his free time, Chris enjoys getting outdoors to go hiking or backpacking.



Hannah Egerton is a native of Syracuse, New York. Prior to moving to New York City, Hannah attended Smith College in Massachusetts, where she studied Government. When she's not at the CFB, Hannah likes to learn about and discuss African Studies.



Allie Swatek is from Maywood, New Jersey. She attended the Gallatin School at New York University where she studied Political History. Allie's favorite pastime is matching wits with Will Shortz and *The New York Times* crossword puzzle.

## Top Searches on CFB Searchable Database

March 1, 2013–March 21, 2013	
1	Joseph J. Lhota
2	Christine C. Quinn
3	Bill de Blasio
4	John C. Liu
5	Letitia James
6	Reshma M. Saujani
7	Ritchie Torres
8	John A. Catsimatidis
9	William C. Thompson, Jr.
10	Austin I. Shafran

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For information about the CFB's voter outreach and education efforts, follow [@NYCVotes!](#) on Twitter and [Facebook](#).