

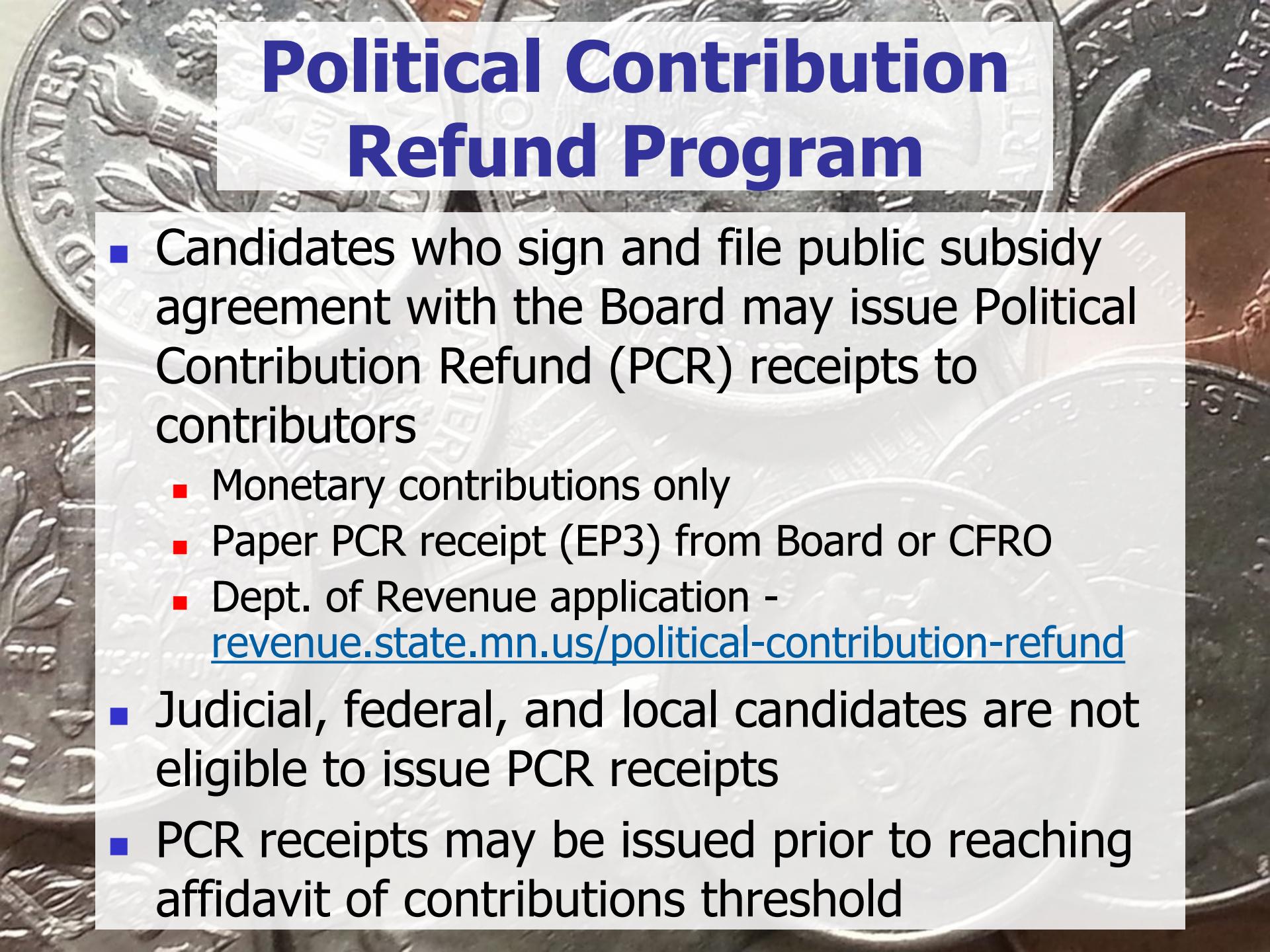
Public Subsidy Training



MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Filing A Public Subsidy Agreement

- First step to participate in the public subsidy program is to register a principal campaign committee with the Board: cfb.mn.gov/filer-resources/complete-a-filing/campaign-finance-filings/registration/
- Second step is to sign and file a public subsidy agreement with the Board: cfb.mn.gov/reports/#/public-subsidy-agreement/
- Public subsidy agreements expire at end of election cycle



Political Contribution Refund Program

- Candidates who sign and file public subsidy agreement with the Board may issue Political Contribution Refund (PCR) receipts to contributors
 - Monetary contributions only
 - Paper PCR receipt (EP3) from Board or CFRO
 - Dept. of Revenue application -
revenue.state.mn.us/political-contribution-refund
- Judicial, federal, and local candidates are not eligible to issue PCR receipts
- PCR receipts may be issued prior to reaching affidavit of contributions threshold

Political Contribution Refund, cont.

- Contribution **must** have been received on or after date the candidate filed public subsidy agreement
- Refunds only available to eligible Minnesota voters
- \$75 per individual per year (\$150 per married couple), tracked by Dept. of Revenue by social security number
- Warn donor to send small PCR receipts in all at one time
- Starting in 2027, contributors will be able to claim a refund electronically

Political Contribution Refund, cont.

- If a contribution consists of money paid for goods or services, including items purchased via auction, the value of the purchase generally must be deducted from the amount paid when issuing a PCR receipt
 - If a contributor pays \$100 for a \$75 gift card via a silent auction, issue PCR receipt for \$25
 - If a contributor pays \$75 for a \$100 gift card, a PCR receipt cannot be issued
- See [Revenue Notice #91-16](#) for more information

Contributions Needed to file Affidavit of Contributions

- To qualify for public subsidy payment campaign must raise specified amount from MN eligible voters counting no more than first \$50 of contribution
- Cannot count anonymous contributions
- Must collect name and address if you wish to count \$20 and less contributions
- How to file affidavit of contributions:
cfb.mn.gov/reports/#/affidavit-of-contributions/

Public Subsidy Payments

- To receive a General Account payment, must be running with a major political party
- Party Account payment, must be with major or minor political party
- Must win the primary election and be opposed in either the primary or general election

Public Subsidy Payments, cont.

- To receive public subsidy payment candidate must:
 - File signed agreement for the election cycle
 - Raise specified amount in contributions from eligible Minnesota voters counting only first \$50 from each donor AND file affidavit of contributions
 - House candidate must raise \$1,500 and Senate candidate must raise \$3,000 in contributions of \$50 or less by July 20, 2026, file signed agreement by July 21, 2026 (or earlier), and file affidavit by July 27, 2026

Public Subsidy Payments, cont.

- To receive public subsidy payment candidate must:
 - Cooperate with the Board's audit of the affidavit of contributions.
 - No public subsidy payment may be paid to the candidate until the audit document is approved by Board staff.
 - The audit document may be produced via CFRO when the committee files the affidavit of contributions with the Board.

Public Subsidy Payments, cont.

- Subsidy payment made after primary election
- Candidate may be released from spending limit depending on conduct of opponent
- Payment is a combination of general account and party check-off from tax form
- Estimates will be published on Board's website in May 2026. Amounts paid in previous years are available at cfb.mn.gov/citizen-resources/board-programs/public-subsidy-of-campaigns/historical-use-of-public-subsidy-program

Public Subsidy Expenditure Obligations

- Must have campaign expenditures equal to or greater than public subsidy funds received during the election cycle by the end of the last year of the cycle
- Public subsidy funds received in excess of expenditures must be returned
- Noncampaign disbursements, including contributions to party units, are not campaign expenditures

Personal Contribution Limit

Office	2025 – 2026 Candidate's Personal Contribution Limit
Governor/Lt. Governor	\$20,000
Attorney General	\$12,500
Secretary of State and State Auditor	\$10,000
Senate	\$5,000
House of Representatives	\$5,000
Judicial Office	Not applicable

- Limit only applies if candidate signs public subsidy agreement
- Contributions and loans in excess of these amounts must be reported to the Board by the next business day

Candidate Spending Limits

- Campaign expenditures are limited if a public subsidy agreement is signed
 - Limit increased 10% for 1st time running for office and 20% for closely contested primary
 - 1st time running for office means
 - Never held the same office
 - Name has never appeared on primary or general election ballot for the same office
 - In the past ten years has not spent more than \$750 for any other office that represents more than 1/3 of population of current office sought

Candidate Spending Limits, cont.

- Campaign spending limit is based on two-year segment
 - Higher limit during two-year election segment
 - Lower limit in two-year non-election segment
- A list of 2025 – 2026 spending and contribution limits is available at cfb.mn.gov/pdf/camfin/contrib_limits.pdf

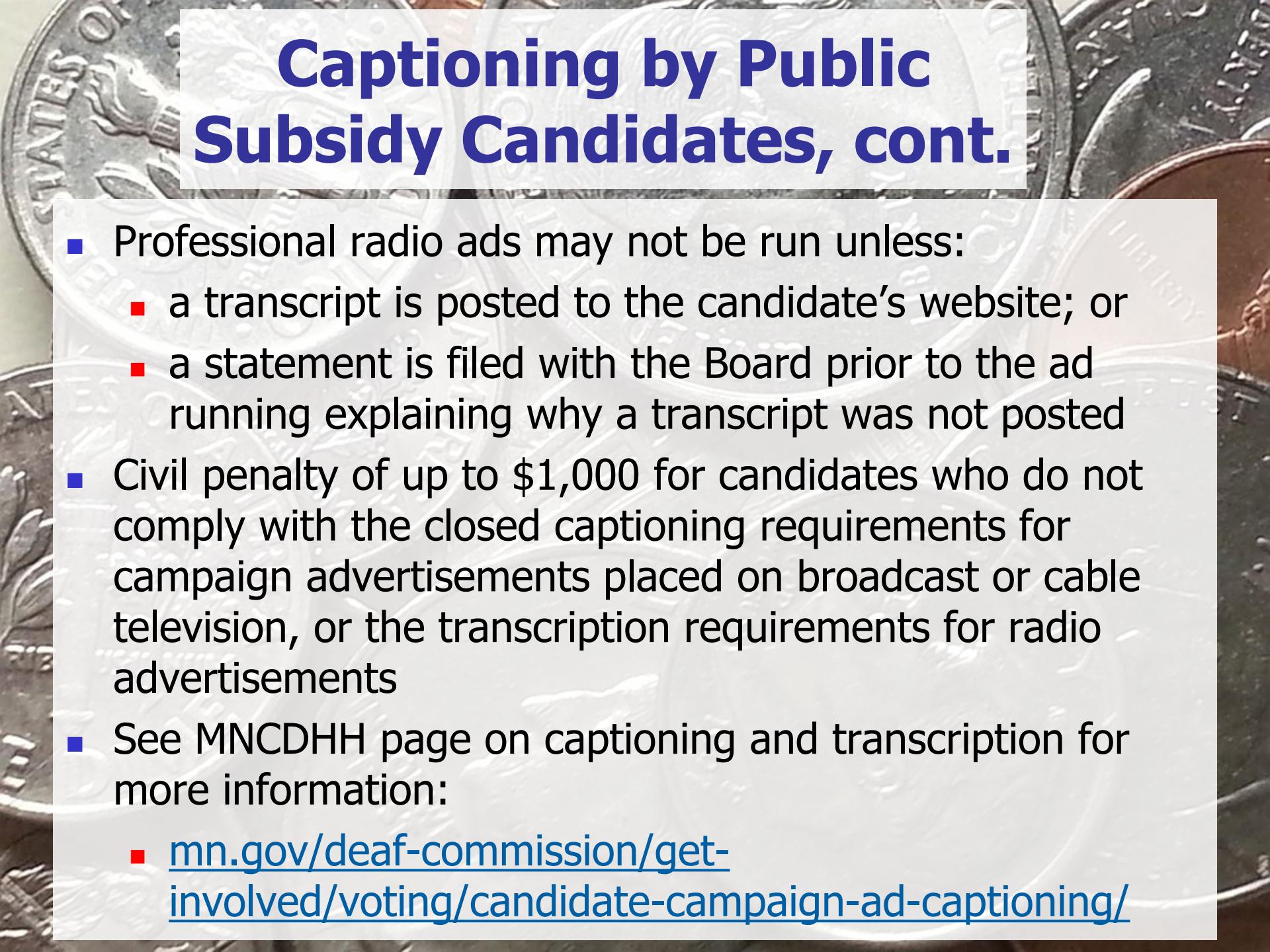
Candidate Spending Limits, cont.

Office	A 2025– 2026 Base Limit	B 2025 – 2026 First-Time Candidate Limit	C 2025 – 2026 Closely Contested Primary Limit	D 2025 – 2026 Limit for Candidate to whom B & C Apply
Governor/Lt. Governor	\$4,232,700	\$4,655,970	\$5,079,240	\$5,587,164
Attorney General	\$725,800	\$798,380	\$870,960	\$958,056
Secretary of State and State Auditor	\$483,900	\$532,290	\$580,680	\$638,748
Senate	\$109,100	\$120,010	\$130,920	\$144,012
House of Representatives	\$80,300	\$88,330	\$96,360	\$105,996

- These amounts will be adjusted for inflation in April 2026

Captioning by Public Subsidy Candidates

- Professional television ads must include closed captioning unless statement is filed with the Board prior to the ad running explaining why captioning was not included
- Professional visual or audio ads on the candidate's website must include closed captioning unless:
 - a transcript is posted to the website; or
 - a statement is filed with the Board prior to the ad running explaining why captioning was not included



Captioning by Public Subsidy Candidates, cont.

- Professional radio ads may not be run unless:
 - a transcript is posted to the candidate's website; or
 - a statement is filed with the Board prior to the ad running explaining why a transcript was not posted
- Civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for candidates who do not comply with the closed captioning requirements for campaign advertisements placed on broadcast or cable television, or the transcription requirements for radio advertisements
- See MNCDHH page on captioning and transcription for more information:
 - mn.gov/deaf-commission/get-involved/voting/candidate-campaign-ad-captioning/

When In Doubt Ask

- Online training videos at cfb.mn.gov/filer-resources/self-help/education-and-tools/online-videos/
- Call (651) 539-1180 or (800) 657-3889
- The website address for the Board is cfb.mn.gov
- On the website, you can access handbooks, download forms, and find contact information for staff members.