

I voted Yes on H.R. 3463, to reduce federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission.

This bill eliminates the Election Assistance Commission and the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. Beginning with the 2011 tax year, taxpayers could no longer elect to designate \$3 of their tax liability to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. The bill directs the Treasury to transfer all amounts in the fund enactment to its general fund. The bill also transfers necessary remaining operations of the Election Assistance Commission to other standing agencies.

Despite spending \$1.5 billion since 1976, taxpayer financing of presidential campaigns has not increased the number of quality presidential candidates or competitiveness of elections. The percentage of taxpayers participating in the fund dropped from 28.7% in 1980 to 7% in 2010. Candidates and nominees now usually opt out of the system altogether. For example, in 2008, Senator Obama declined public financing during the general election. In the 2012 primary campaign, no candidate has requested primary certification to utilize the system.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established in 2002 in the wake of the controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election. Congress originally intended to end the EAC in 2005. The commission has fulfilled its mission of administering funds and conducting research as mandated by current law, but its size has increased. The National Association of Secretaries of State has even passed two resolutions calling for the EAC's dissolution.

Overall, H.R. 3463 would save taxpayers \$480 million and return nearly \$200 million to the Treasury, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The bill was approved by a vote of 235 – 190.