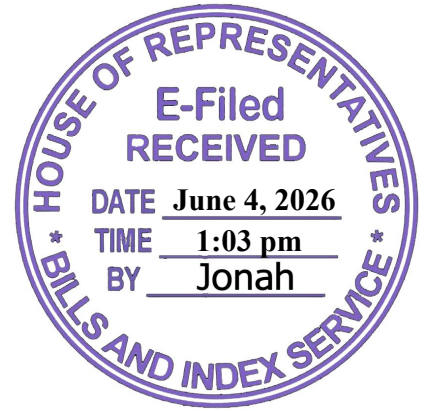


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 9802**



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**Introduced by:**

**HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AND INDEXING THE SAME TO INFLATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR OTHER ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Free and fair elections are the foundation of democracy. Our laws on campaign spending were created to give candidates a fair chance to reach voters and prevent elections from being dominated by money and political influence. However, the campaign spending limits set by law in 1991 have remained unchanged for more than three decades, despite the rising costs of transportation, communication, printing, media, and other lawful campaign activities. What may have been reasonable in 1991 is no longer realistic today.

Because these limits no longer reflect present economic conditions, candidates may struggle to conduct legitimate campaigns within the outdated ceilings. This can encourage underreporting, weaken transparency, and push campaign activities into informal or unregulated channels. Instead of strengthening accountability, unrealistic limits may unintentionally undermine public trust in the electoral process.

This bill seeks to update the allowable campaign spending limits and provide a fair system for adjusting them over time based on inflation and official economic data. The measure does not remove spending controls; rather, it ensures that the law remains

practical, enforceable, and responsive to current realities while still protecting equal opportunity among candidates and preventing excessive influence by wealth and political machinery.

The measure also continues to encourage transparency by maintaining existing rules that exempt properly reported campaign contributions from donor's tax. Ultimately, this bill aims to strengthen clean, honest, and accountable elections by ensuring that campaign finance laws remain fair, realistic, and effective for both candidates and the Filipino people.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.

  
**CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**  
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the “*Fair Campaign Spending Limits Indexation Act.*”

**SECTION 2. Amendment of Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166.** — Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties. – The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

(a) For candidates —

(1) President — FIFTY PESOS (P50.00) for every voter currently registered nationwide;

- (2) Vice-President — FORTY PESOS (P40.00) for every voter currently registered nationwide;
- (3) Senator — THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every voter currently registered nationwide;
- (4) Member, House of Representatives (District Representative) — THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every voter currently registered in the legislative district where the candidate filed the certificate of candidacy;
- (5) Party-list representative — THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every voter currently registered nationwide;
- (6) Provincial governor, vice-governor, and member, Sangguniang Panlalawigan — THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every voter currently registered in the province where the candidate filed the certificate of candidacy;
- (7) City/municipal mayor, vice-mayor, and member, Sangguniang Panlungsod/Bayan — THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every voter currently registered in the city or municipality where the candidate filed the certificate of candidacy;

*Provided, That a candidate without any political party AND without support from any political party may be allowed to spend an additional amount, not exceeding TWENTY PESOS (P20.00) for every such voter:*

*Provided, further, That for purposes of this Section, “support” shall be understood in accordance with law and jurisprudence, and shall not be limited to direct financial assistance.*

- (b) For political parties and party-list groups — THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

“Any provision of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission, shall not be subject to the payment of any [gift] DONOR’s tax.”

**SECTION 3. Inflation Indexation; Publication of Adjusted Amounts.** — Beginning the next regular national and local elections after the effectivity of this Act, and every three (3) years thereafter, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall cause the adjustment of the peso amounts stated in Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166, as amended, in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) The adjusted amounts shall be computed by multiplying each peso amount by the ratio of the latest available annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI), All Items, Philippines, as published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), to the CPI baseline year corresponding to the year of the last adjustment;
- (b) The adjusted amounts shall be rounded off to the nearest centavo;
- (c) COMELEC's function under this Section shall be ministerial. It shall, not later than one hundred eighty (180) days before the start of the official campaign period, publish the adjusted amounts in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, and post the same in its official website.

For this purpose, COMELEC may consult the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the PSA for technical inputs.

**SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the Commission on Elections shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SECTION 5. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, rules, regulations, issuances, and parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect **fifteen (15) days** after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*