

Sean Patrick Maloney voted to allow public funds to be used for political campaigns and supported allowing politicians to use campaign funds for expenses like first class flights and luxury hotel stays.

Sean Patrick Maloney co-sponsored and voted for H.R.1, the “For The People Act of 2021,” which would allow for millions of dollars in public funding for candidates running for Congress:

- Sean Patrick Maloney co-sponsored H.R. 1, the “For the People Act of 2021.” ([H.R. 1](#), Introduced 01/04/21)
- On March 3, 2021, H.R. 1 was passed 220 to 210. (H.R. 1, [Roll Call #62](#), Passed 220 -210: R 0-209, D 220-1, 3/03/21)
 - Maloney voted YEA on H.R. 1. (H.R. 1, [Roll Call #62](#), Passed 220 -210: R 0-209, D 220-1, Maloney Voted Yea, 3/03/21)
- H.R. 1 would create a program to match certain qualifying campaign contributions with federal funds for House candidates who comply with the program’s requirements. “H.R. 1 also would create a program, starting in the 2028 election cycle, to match certain qualifying campaign contributions with federal funds for candidates running for the House of Representatives who choose to comply with the program’s requirements. Generally, candidates who accept campaign contributions of \$200 or less from individual Page 3 of 3 donors would be eligible to receive federal matching funds at a rate of up to \$6 for every \$1 raised from donors. Eligible candidates would need to meet certain other fundraising thresholds, and the bill would limit the total matching funds available to any individual candidate. The bill would not limit the total cost of providing matching funds for all participating candidates in any election cycle, but total expenditures would be limited to amounts available in the Freedom From Influence Fund.” (H.R. 1 - Estimated Effects on Direct Spending and Revenues, [Congressional Budget Office](#), 02/25/21)
- According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the maximum match candidates could receive is \$5 million. “Using data from the FEC, CBO finds that about 1,800 candidates run for the House, on average, in an election cycle and that spending by all candidates in recent cycles has totaled more than \$1 billion. Using data from the 2020 election, CBO expects that under the new program roughly 400 candidates would raise more from small donors plus the matching amounts at a 6-to-1 matching rate (with a maximum match of \$5 million) than they raised in total contributions during the last election cycle.” (H.R. 1 - Estimated Effects on Direct Spending and Revenues, [Congressional Budget Office](#), 02/25/21)
- The CBO estimates that in total, providing matching funds for House elections would increase direct spending by nearly \$1.6 billion between 2021 – 2031. “CBO estimates that spending under this program would total about \$620 million for the 2028 election (\$50 million in 2027, \$520 million in 2028, and \$50 million in 2029) and about \$850 million for the 2030 election (\$70 million in 2029, \$710 million in 2030, and \$70 million in 2031). CBO also estimates that about \$90 million would be spent in 2031 for the 2032 election cycle. Thus, CBO estimates that in total enacting this provision would increase direct spending by about \$1.6 billion over the 2021-2031 period.” (H.R. 1 - Estimated Effects on Direct Spending and Revenues, [Congressional Budget Office](#), 02/25/21)

- **“Money to the fund would come in the form of an additional assessment, or surcharge, on fines already paid by tax cheats or companies fined for criminal or civil penalties.”**
(Kate Ackley, “HR 1 overhaul would set new holiday and new rules for lobbyists, elections and justices,” [Roll Call](#), 03/03/21)

H.R. 1 would sanction the use of campaign funds to cover the personal expenses of candidates:

Editor’s Note: According to the [text](#) of H.R. 1, the use of campaign funds to cover personal expenses does not apply to a candidate who is a holder of Federal Office (Page 724).

- **According to the text of the bill, H.R. 1 would allow personal use services as authorized campaign expenditures.** “(a) Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditure.—Section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114), as amended by section 5113, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: (e) Treatment of Payments for Child Care and Other Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditure.—(1) Authorized expenditures.—For purposes of subsection (a), the payment by an authorized committee of a candidate for any of the personal use services described in paragraph (3) shall be treated as an authorized expenditure if the services are necessary to enable the participation of the candidate in campaign-connected activities.”
(Text, [H.R. 1](#), Introduced 01/04/21)
- **According to the text of the bill, personal use services include childcare services, elder care services, health insurance premiums, and services provided on behalf of any dependent who is a qualifying relative.** “(3) Personal use services described.—The personal use services described in this paragraph are as follows: ` ` (A) Child care services. ` ` (B) Elder care services. ` ` (C) Services similar to the services described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B) which are provided on behalf of any dependent who is a qualifying relative under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. ` ` (D) Health insurance premiums.” (Text, [H.R. 1](#), Introduced 01/04/21)

Under current FEC rules, a candidate may spend campaign funds on travel expenses, which could include first class travel, and luxury hotels are not prohibited:

- **Per the FEC, campaign funds can be spent on travel expenses.** “Campaign funds may be used to pay the costs of travel to an activity that is related to the campaign or to the candidate’s duties as a federal officeholder. Thus, campaign funds may be used to pay for the costs of travel for a candidate (and the candidate’s spouse and minor children) to functions directly related to the campaign or those directly connected to the individual’s official responsibilities as a federal officeholder. The regulations, however, prohibit the use of campaign funds for personal expenses collateral to travel—either campaign or officeholder—unless personal funds are used to reimburse the committee.” (Federal Election Commission, “[Personal Use](#),” accessed 9/13/22)

Editor’s Note: The FEC does determine “first class travel” to be prohibited.

- **Luxury hotels are not included on the FEC’s “automatic personal use” list.** (Federal Election Commission, “[Personal Use](#),” accessed 9/13/22)

- The FEC describes “automatic personal use” as expenses that cannot be paid for with campaign funds. “The regulations list some expenses that are automatically considered to be personal use. Based on these rules, the following paragraphs discuss what kinds of expenses the campaign can and cannot pay for.” (Federal Election Commission, “[Personal Use](#),” accessed 9/13/22)

***Editor’s Note:** Members of Congress, such as Eric Swalwell, have spent campaign funds on luxury hotels, flights, and limousine services.*

Under Sean Patrick Maloney’s leadership, the DCCC has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on private flights, foreign travel, and office furniture:

- Sean Patrick Maloney was elected DCCC Chair on December 3, 2020. “Today, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) was elected Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) by his colleagues and peers in the Democratic Caucus.” (Representative Sean Patrick Maloney, “Maloney Elected Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee,” [Press Release](#), 12/3/20)
- In October 2021, the DCCC “dropped hundreds of thousands of dollars on office furniture, private flights, foreign travel – and \$70,000 worth of flowers.” “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has dropped hundreds of thousands of dollars on office furniture, private flights, foreign travel – and \$70,000 worth of flowers, a review of Federal Election Commission documents show.” (Jon Levine, “DCCC drops cash on foreign travel, private planes – and \$70K in flowers,” [New York Post](#), 10/2/21)
- In July 2021, the DCCC reported spending over \$15,000 on “a private jet services company that was also a favorite of Joe Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign.” “In July the committee reported more than \$3,000 in combined expenditures to British Airways and Icelandair. Another \$15,571 was dropped at EJCR LLC DbA Advanced Aviation Team – a private jet services company that was also a favorite of Joe Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign.” (Jon Levine, “DCCC drops cash on foreign travel, private planes – and \$70K in flowers,” [New York Post](#), 10/2/21)

In June 2021, Sean Patrick Maloney spent hundreds of dollars on an Air France flight, “just weeks before Maloney jetted off to Nice with his husband for a friend’s wedding:”

- In June 2021, Sean Patrick Maloney spent hundreds of dollars on an Air France flight, “just weeks before Maloney jetted off to Nice with his husband for a friend’s wedding.” “It’s not the first time New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the DCCC chairman, raised eyebrows for questionable spending. In June his committee spent \$813 for an Air France flight just weeks before Maloney jetted off to Nice with his husband for a friend’s wedding.” (Jon Levine, “DCCC drops cash on foreign travel, private planes – and \$70K in flowers,” [New York Post](#), 10/2/21)