

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on public financing of presidential campaigns in the United States and the fact that after decades of functioning successfully the system's use by presidential candidates diminished and virtually vanished in recent years. The aim of the thesis is to identify the particular reasons for this development and to propose suggestions for changes that would eventually make the system functional and lucrative for the candidates again. It sets forth a comprehensive description and analysis of the legislation and Supreme Court rulings concerning presidential campaign financing as well as an overview of the current state of public campaign finance law. It then examines those presidential elections in which some candidate(s) opted out of the public financing, whether for primary or general elections, and tries to find the reason behind the candidates' decisions to opt out. Based on that it determines the reasons which were a common denominator among the presidential candidates and which caused the diminishment of public financing and categorizes them. At the end it proposes possible solutions to these problems and the possibilities of reforming the public financing of presidential elections.