



*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Public Funding for Political Party Conventions

June 13, 2012

Program or Item Targeted: Taxpayer financing of party conventions.

Cost of Program or Item: For this election cycle alone, projected costs are over \$36 million.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: Political party conventions during election cycles have received taxpayer funding. In 1980, federal grants paid for nearly 95 percent of convention costs; however, in 2008, these federal grants covered approximately 23 percent of convention costs. Recent expenditures or "convention costs" paid for by federal dollars include: a make-up artist consultant, political consulting fees, gift bags, banners, among others. Since the inception of taxpayer funding for political conventions, over \$220 million in taxpayer dollars have been spent on party conventions.

Why This Item Is Wasteful: The major parties are more than capable of funding their own national conventions through private contributions, which already generate over three times the amount the federal grants provide for this purpose alone. Many believe that American taxpayers should not be forced to fund the conventions for these political parties in either event. However, it is certainly clear that the need does not exist when the parties are fully capable of funding their own conventions through other means.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Tom Cole has introduced H.R. 5912, which would prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions. The legislation would also allow political parties to return the unspent and previously distributed funds for this purpose to reduce the deficit. RSC Members are encouraged to cosponsor this legislation. If you have any questions or wish to cosponsor, please contact Steve Waskiewicz at Steve.Waskiewicz@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it, working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."

