



New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-821 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



ANNUAL REPORT

To: Mayor Toni Harp and the New Haven Board of Aldermen
Date: January 21, 2015

Pursuant to Section 2-823(a) of the Democracy Fund Ordinance and Section 2 of the Democracy Fund Board Bylaws, the New Haven Democracy Fund Board is required to issue an annual report to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen that contains a statement of the financial condition and expenditures of the Fund, a summary of the Board's activities for the preceding year, and a request for appropriations for the upcoming fiscal year.

I. Statement of Financial Condition and Expenditures

The Democracy Fund (the "Fund") began calendar year 2014 with \$346,596.15. At the end of 2014 the Fund had \$342,581.28.

The Fund had one type of expenditure 2015: Administrative costs. Ken Krayeske stepped down as administrator in March 2014 with his final invoice submitted in June, 2014. Krayeske was paid \$70.00 hourly for a total of 4,830.¹ These costs include his paying a clerk for some administrative work. There were no administrative costs between June and December. 2014 saw no candidate costs.

The fund has one type of revenue in 2014: Candidate Refunds. These refunds totaled \$1,235.53.

In total, the Fund used

Administrator Costs:	\$ 4,830.00
Candidate Refunds:	\$ -1,235.53
Total:	\$ 3,594.47

A. Administrator Costs

Expenditures from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 for the services of Fund Administrator Kenneth J. Krayeske were as follows:

December 2012 (paid in January 2013)	\$ 630.00
January 2013 (paid in February 2013)	\$ 1,757.00
February 2013 (paid in March 2013)	\$ 553.00

¹Krayeske will receive additional compensation for 10 hours of training of the new Administrator. The training occurred in December 2014, but payment will not be processed until 2015.

March 2013 (paid in April 2013)	\$ 707.00
April - June 2013 (paid in July 2013)	\$ 1,183.00
Total 2013 Administrator Expenditure	\$ 4,830.00

B. Candidate Contributions

The fund did not distribute money to candidates in 2014. The Fund only has candidate contribution expenditures in odd numbered years.

C. Candidate Refunds

The fund received a refund of unused campaign funds in the amount of \$1,235.53 from the Carolina campaign. This was the only revenue in 2014.

II. Board Vacancies

There are presently four board members: two Democrats, one Republican and one Green. No more than three board members can be registered with the same political party, per the Fund ordinance.

Tyrone McClain renewed his board membership for an additional four years in August. Tina Ocasio and Andrew Knott both fulfilled their terms and stepped down from the board in August. Chair Patricia Kane (Green) resigned in September. Jared Milfred became Board Chair in October.

Three Board seats remain open (only one can be filled by a Democrat and two can be filled by a Republican, Green, Unaffiliated or other party member). There are presently no applications in process.

As of December 31, 2014, Fund board members were:

- Jared Milfred (Democrat – term expiration 8/1/18)
- William Wynn (Republican - term expiration 10/1/18)
- Gerald Martin (Green - term expiration 8/1/16)
- Tyrone R. McClain (Democrat - term expiration 8/1/18)

Having only four of seven seats filled has made quorum and scheduling meetings difficult. The Fund will use outreach opportunities to encourage new board members in 2015.

III. Summary of Board Activities

The Administrator worked on the audit of the 2013 campaign expenditures for the first six months of the year. With the assistance of a clerk, Aiti Rai, the audit was mostly completed. The clerk completed 20.6 hours of work. The Audit showed that two candidates, Justin Elicker and Gary Holder-Winfield has significant compliance with the Fund's reporting process.

The Administrator raised questions on the paperwork for candidate Kermit Carolina, but as of January 2015, the candidate committee has not responded to requests

for more information. Candidate Sundiata Kietazulu signed up as a participant in the Democracy Fund but never raised enough money to qualify for the grant or matching funds. Kietazulu's compliance is therefore not a matter of significant concern for the Democracy Fund, but rather for the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC).

The Administrator also analyzed Alder campaign spending to develop a proposal for expanding the Fund to cover other municipal races. The findings were presented to both the BoA and the Fund Board. Chair Milfred completed an independent report to reassess the likelihood of competitive races in New Haven and submitted adjusted numbers to the Board.

There was no Administrator for six months during 2014, which slowed the process for the audit and outreach activities.

There was some changeover of board members, most notably the resignation of the Democracy Fund Board Chair, Patricia Kane, and subsequent election of Jared Milfred. The other new board member in 2014 was William Wynn (R).

A new Administrator was chosen in November (Alyson Heimer) and she will begin work in 2015. Training for the new Administrator took place in December 2014, but the Fund will pay this amount in 2015, so it will be included in the 2015 annual report.

IV. Request for Appropriations

The Democracy Fund Board is not requesting any appropriations at this time. The Fund received a \$200,000.00 replenishment in 2013.

V. 2015 Projections

The Fund expects in 2015 to expend the \$26,000 encumbrance for the Administrator's contract and projects 2-3 candidates for the 2015 mayoral race. The Fund anticipates \$100,000 in candidate expenditures.

The Fund also anticipates two major actions in 2015 in addition to the municipal election and management of qualifying candidates, allocation of matching funds and grant monies, and performing an audit of those filings.

The first is an outreach push to increase the visibility of the board and promote the Fund as a meaningful tool to combat the perception that money plays a role in our municipal elections. The second is a proposal to the Board of Alders to expand the Fund to other type of municipal elections. The second action comes with a fiscal note.

The Democracy Fund Board will request funds in 2016 if the Fund is expanded to provide public financing to other municipal elections (City Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, and/or Alders).