



# 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



## DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

**6:00 pm Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

**Mayor's conference room #2**

New Haven Democracy Fund Board, Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, William Wynn, James Bhandary-Alexander, Sarah Ficca (new),  
Lesley Heffel-McGuirk (new)

Members of the Public in attendance: Representative from the Elicker Campaign Susan Metrick,  
Representative from the Abdussabur Campaign Dana Samuel.

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

### Minutes

- I. Call to Order & Attendance 6:08pm. All members in attendance included two newly appointed Board Members: Lesley Heffel-McGuirk (I) and Sarah Ficca (I).
- II. Motion to approve the Minutes from February 15, 2023 made by Goode, 5-0-0. Two members not in room yet - joined later via Zoom
- III. Public comment - none.
- IV. Chair's Report
  - A. Welcome to the new members their second reading was Monday March 20, 2023 and the board is now fully seated for the first time in many years. Bill Wynn is still on the board until a new person can be appointed to fill the seat. Chair Rodriguez's term will expire August 2024. O'Connell and Goode were also reappointed for new 3 year terms.
- V. Administrator's Report
  - A. 2023 Election Update
    1. Participating candidates
      - a) Audit for Elicker matching funds - the audit report was distributed to the board members. The campaign was approved for \$20,000 in matching funds and for the \$23,000 grant once ballot access has been obtained.

Clarifications were requested by O'Connell about the rejected contributions that could not be matched.

Administrator Heimer noted that some people were not registered to vote in the City of New Haven, many

people on the list were duplicate contributors who maxed out their matching funds but were listed separately. The other names who were rejected either could not be located on the voter rolls, had missing forms or information, or other clerical issues. The check for the matching funds was made available to the campaign within 10 days of the completed audit.

Administrator Heimer was thanked by Board members for the report.

2. Other campaigns and committees

- a) Expected filings - Both Brennan and Abdussabur are expected to file within the next coming weeks. Brennan has yet to submit the affidavit and candidate contract, but it is expected.
- b) SEEC financial filings are expected from all campaigns on April 10. Only NHDF participating candidates will be allowed to use the SEEC's online filing system eCRIS.

B. Internship update

1. The position for the summer to complete some data projects and help with determining metrics that accurately show NHDF's impact on New Haven elections has been posted to Idealist.org and Indeed.com via ziprecruiter. So far there are a couple responses that look promising.

Chair Rodriguez called for members to volunteer to be on a subcommittee to review the applications, set up interviews, and ultimately determine a candidate. Members Ficca and Heffel-McGuirk volunteered to join the subcommittee. Administrator Heimer will coordinate the documents as they come in and present them to subcommittee members.

VI. New Business

- A. Training for new members will be scheduled. Each member received an official NHDF binder with a copy of the bylaws, ordinance, documents pertaining to this year's election, minutes from meetings so far in 2023, a 2023 meeting schedule and the summary page and full details for the Ordinance revisions and proposed pilot program for the Democracy Fund Pledge for alders.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.