



# 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, §2-321 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



## DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Virtual and in-person meeting

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, William Wynn, James Bhandary-Alexander

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

### AGENDA:

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes October 20, 2021 moved by Bhandary-Alexander. 4-0-1. O'Connell abstained.
3. No members of the Public were present for the public comment portion of the meeting. Other Correspondence: The Administrator received an email from the Elicker Campaign thanking the Board for their efforts during the 2021 Election Cycle.
4. Administrator's Report
  - a. Ordinance Review Subcommittee Membership - Administrator Heimer was alerted that Howard Blau of Ward 18 would like to be a citizen member of the subcommittee to address ordinance changes. This has been approved by the Board Chair and the Chair of the Subcommittee. With the close of the election season, this subcommittee has begun its work in earnest. Administrator Heimer and Subcommittee Chair Bhandary-Alexander began the process by creating a list of goals for the Ordinance redesign. Those key points are listed below and reviewed by the board.
    - i. Eliminate possibility of same person making two contributions, one in the primary and one in the general;
    - ii. Extend offices covered to all citywide offices.
    - iii. deadlines/ timeframes more in line with the election calendar
    - iv. individual contribution minimums for match, and determining if the 2-to-1 match amounts should remain the same
    - v. Total fundraising limits/amounts
    - vi. frequency of distribution and request minimums during the last 60 days of the election
    - vii. Creating a method for participation that does not require money from the fund, i.e. a Pledge or the Democracy Fund Promise, etc.
    - viii. Closing loopholes for exploratory committees
    - ix. closing loopholes for primaries that do not take place

- x. consider explicit timelines for grant and matching distributions
- xi. Re-examine the ordinance with the limitations of the city's finance department in mind
- xii. stronger language safeguarding the Fund, its allocations, and interest-bearing requirements

- b. Approval of \$3,498.30 matching funds to Justin Elicker's Campaign (final disbursement). The Board added this to the motion to approve the Administrator's report.
- c. 2021 Election Summary - The Board was given a break down of all dollars spent during 2021 to date. This included grants for both the Primary and General elections totalling \$80,000.00. One grant was returned in its entirety by the Dubois-Walton Campaign

#### 5. Chair's Report

- a. Chair Rodriguez called an Executive Session to discuss contractual obligations. The meeting was briefly adjourned at 6:56pm.
- b. The meeting was reconvened at 6:37pm. Chair Rodriguez announced the board's resolution to extend the Administrator's contract for Alyson Heimer for an additional year with a 5% increase to the monthly stipend.

#### 6. New Business

- a. Administrator will begin work on the 2021 Annual Report. This is set to be presented at the January 2022 meeting.