

# New Haven Democracy Fund



“.. a ***clean campaign*** funded by local residents will lay the groundwork for an administration that governs ***for and by the people*** who live here, not outside influences who would seek to control it.”

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- Mayor Justin Elicker, in 2013

# Goals of the Program

To combat the perception of corruption in the city's electoral process; and

To give citizens a meaningful way to participate in the election of their Mayor.

- Promote transparency in campaign finance filings and transactions
- Allow for the use of the State's online eCRIS campaign filing program
- Gives the public full visibility of how contributions are made, how they are used, and who is donating to a campaign
- Allow for teaching opportunities
- Host the major mayoral debate

# 2022 NHDF Board Goals

- Adequate replenishment before the next Mayoral Election  
(\$150,000 to be requested in 2023-2024 budget)
- Ordinance Review and Revisions
- New RFQ for the Administrator position

# Ordinance Revision

To clarify rules, regulations,  
and processes

To ensure the continued  
success of the program for  
decades to come



# ORDINANCE REVISION

## Timeline

Subcommittee on the ordinance revision decided on priorities.

First Draft reviewed by the NHDF Board

We are holding this workshop to ensure that Alders and the public understand the scope of ordinance revisions and have the opportunity for meaningful input in the process.

Final draft of changes will be submitted to the Board of Alders in December 2022.

Board of Alders passes legislation before 2023 Election cycle kicks off.

### Priorities:

- Closing legislative loopholes
- Expanding to additional citywide offices
- Augmenting funding amounts to maximize the power of small dollar contributions

# ORDINANCE REVISION

- Closing loopholes
- Expanding to additional offices
- Funding amounts

## Loopholes

- Exploratory Committee Fundraising
- Maximum contribution limits
- Debate requirements for different election rounds

## Additional Offices:

- City/Town Clerk
- Registrar of Voters
- Board of Education

## Current NHDF Grant Funding Structure

\$125,000

Maximum matching funds per candidate, per cycle (reset between the Primary and General Elections)

Grant Amount: \$21,000

Maximum payout: \$146,000 per candidate, per cycle

Minimum Contribution: \$10 Maximum Contribution: \$440

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### Proposed NHDF Grant Funding Structure for citywide races

Minimum Contribution: **\$5**

Maximum Contribution: **\$400**

Grant for other citywide races: **\$25,000** per cycle following a fundraising threshold of \$5,000 from 200 registered voters

Matching ratio: **none**

The New Haven Democracy Fund is the only program in the country with a hybrid grant and matching fund system.

New York City's program pays out 8-1 in matching funds but with no grants.

Connecticut's Citizen's Election Program (CEP) provides only a grants following a fundraising threshold.



New Haven's elections work  
better with the Democracy Fund.

**Let's fund what works.**

# Thank you!

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