



# 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](mailto:democracyfund@newhavenct.net)



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## DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

**6:00 pm Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

**Mayor's conference room #2/ Virtual via Zoom**

New Haven Democracy Fund Board, Sergio Rodriguez, Chair; William Wynn, Vice Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, James Bhandary-Alexander, Lesley Heffel-McGuirk, Sarah Ficca.

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

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To join the meeting please use one of the options below:

Web Browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82382679039> ; Meeting ID: 823 8267 9039

Phone: Please dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (New Haven, CT) Meeting ID: 823 8267 9039

+1 312 626 6799 US (Outside New Haven) Meeting ID: 823 8267 9039

Meeting is in person with online attendance possible.

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### AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order & Attendance - Moved by
- II. Special Topic: State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) legal team report on credit card processing fees as part of the contribution.

O'Connell Motioned: For this year and this year only, 2023, whatever the reported amount as a monetary contribution on the SEEC form 20 filing, is the amount the Democracy Fund will consider the total contribution and match 2-to-1 any amount up to \$35. If this amount exceeds the allowable \$445 maximum then the overage must be returned to the contributor.

Vote: 5-0-1.

- III. Public comment: None
- IV. Review of the Minutes from April 19, 2023 - moved by Heffel-McGuirk, approved - 4-0-0.
- V. Chair's Report
  - A. Summer Position Subcommittee Report



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## B. Night Market (with thanks to Members Goode and Heffel-McGuirk)

Need to come up with an official brochure and how to join the board, volunteer, donate, etc.

Go to the CMT meetings as outreach. QR link to the Boards and Commissions application page.

## VI. Administrator's Report

### A. Campaign correspondence

#### 1. Regarding false information about the Democracy Fund -

Member Goode brought to the attention of the board some inaccurate statements about the workings of the Fund.

To be frank, **it takes a lot of money to tackle an incumbent with deep pockets.** The Democracy Fund is fantastic in theory, but it doesn't actually match dollars for candidates until we get on the ballot in June, while limiting crucial donations for months before then. We don't have time to wait. **Your donations have already been put to work paying for advertising, door knocking, phone calls, and so much more to spread this campaign's message - that we need a New Haven that works for us all.**

This is inaccurate because campaigns all receive matching funds that they are qualified for within 10 days of the request. The public perception of the program is very important for the Board and it may be in the interest of the program to do a press release about how the program works. We can take this as an opportunity to explain it and the purpose of the program. An op-ed might be appropriate.

O'Connell, Heffel-McGuirk, Ficca supported writing an informational piece that explains the program and celebrates the participation so far in the program,

#### 2. Regarding the filing of complaints

### B. 2023 Election Update

#### 1. Participating candidates

- a) Elicker second matching funds
- b) Abdussabur filing corrections
- c) Liam first filing

#### 2. Other campaigns and committees

## VII. Report from the Ordinance Review Sub-Committee (James Bhandary-Alexander, Chair)

### A. Holding pattern until charter revision finishes.



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VIII. Executive Session to discuss hiring for the summer position if needed.

A. Voting on final candidates or the sending of formal offers.

IX. New Business

A. Debate - end of August preferred date.

Adjournment at 8:00pm.