



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, October 18, 2023

Mayor's conference room #1/ 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

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

AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order & Attendance at 6:16pm. Heffel-McGuirk, Ficca, Rodriguez in attendance. Goode arrived late.
- II. Motion by Rodriguez to approve the Minutes from September 20, 2023.
- III. Public Comment
 - None.
- IV. Chair's Report
 - A. Proposed increase to the NHDF Board budget - \$5000 is budgeted for the travel line and professional development for Fund Members should be a priority in the off-year.
Ficca: because its an off-year then professional development is smart for this coming year.
Rodriguez motioned to increase the travel line item by \$5,000 for FY 2023-2024. 3-0-0.
- V. Debate Subcommittee Report
 - A. October 24, 2023 7pm at the Shubert Theater, Tom Breen to moderate.
Ficca has been moderating the questions and sent out the press release and completed the flier. Ideally all questions/topics come from the community. The Board should ask a question about financing. A discussion was had about anonymising questions or remaining unbiased. The Democracy Fund Board will ask, "You each chose to fund your campaigns in different ways, why did you make the choice you did?"



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Cut off date for collecting questions from the Public - Tuesday. Administrator Heimer will send questions to Tom on Tuesday. Monday night the debate committee at 5pm.

B. Proposed changes to NHDF Regulations and possible subcommittee development.

After the election the Board can create a subcommittee to review the NHDF regulations. The Chair requests that members review the document and submit ideas to the Administrator in advance of the subcommittee's creation.

VI. Administrator's Report

A. 2023 Election Update - General Election

1. Participating candidates -

a) Justin Elicker has not yet filed a request for a grant or matching funds.

2. Non-Participating candidates

a) Tom Goldenberg

b) Wendy Hamilton

VII. New Business

A. Aaron Goode will submit a receipt for the event he attended in September on voting rights.

a. Seattle and Oakland presented their models for Democracy Dollars. CA just released a report and the percentage of voters who participate as donors increases. The report will be available and sent to Board Members.

B. Ballot measure will be to approve the charter revision changes.

C. Dinner for meetings

D. White paper using the data from our summer intern.