



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, August 20, 2025

In person at 165 Church Street and Virtual via Zoom

New Haven Democracy Fund Board, Lesley Heffel-McGuirk, Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, William Wynn, Sarah Ficca.

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

Minutes:

- I. Call to order 6:00.
 - A. Present: Lesley Heffel-McGuirk (Chair), Sarah Ficca, Aaron, Goode, James O'Connell
 - B. Absent: William Wynn
 - C. Other Persons: Alyson Heimer, Administrator, Susan Metrick

- II. Review of the Minutes from June 2025, July 2025
 - A. Motion to approve the minutes by Chair Heffel-McGuirk. 2-0-1.

III. No Public Comment

Member Goode joined the meeting at 6:05pm

- IV. Administrator's Report
 - A. 2025 Election Update - Contested General Election
 - 1. Participating: Elicker, Submitted filing for Grant Approval.
 - a) Matching Funds Disbursement: \$28,290.00
Motion by Chair Heffel McGuirk: Recognizing that the Elicker campaign has achieved ballot access, moves to have the Board release the \$25,000.00 General Election Democracy Fund Grant now per the request of the campaign. Seconded by O'Connell.
4-0-0.
 - 2. Not participating: Boyd, Orosco
 - B. General Election Debate Scheduling either September 29 or 30th depending on the availability of the candidates. Locations were discussed at length.
Administrator will reach out to venues and candidates.



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



2

V. Chair's Report

- A. Debate needs to be scheduled for Elicker now that he has been issued the \$25,000.00 grant.
Creation of a subcommittee for the Debate: O'Connell appointed chair. Maximum budget \$6,000.00. O'Connell will get pricing for audio equipment to ensure candidates can be heard.
- B. Paid advertising included in the budget.
Sarah Ficca joined the subcommittee. Ficca will do the flyer.

VI. Old Business

- A. Event Subcommittee (Goode, Chair)

Member Goode left the meeting at 7:10pm.

Further discussion was had about membership and party affiliation requirements. Members will continue to press their Alders for suggestions.

- VII. Motion to adjourn by O'connell. The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.