



# 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, November 19, 2025**

**Online and In Person at City Hall (Conference Room 3)**

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

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

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

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

Web Browser: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newhavenct.zoom.us/j/81677966524?pwd=HL1j10mmIy358sBPO4EwXfxoqWe1C9.1>

Meeting ID: 816 7796 6524

Password: NHDF2025

Phone: +13092053325,,81677966524# US

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### Minutes:

- I. Call to Order & Attendance 8:04pm. Wynn Absent.
- II. Motion to approve Minutes from October 2025 by Ficca. 3-0-0.
- III. No Public Comment, three members of the public were in attendance.
- IV. Administrator's Report
  - A. 2025 Election Closeout
    - 1. A discussion was had about doing either a formal Survey to participants or sit down interviews. The board asked that the Administrator invite both candidates to the December meeting or meet with the Administrator individually to discuss.
  - B. 2025 COGEL Update
    - 1. Presentation details and travel plans - Goode Ficca and Heimer to attend the conference in Atlanta, GA in early December. Heimer to present on a panel about campaign finance program model types.
  - C. 2026-2207 Program expansion plan
    - A healthy discussion was had about city-wide expansion of the Fund vs pilot program options for Alders races.



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V. Chair's Report

- A. Administrator's Renewal of Contract for 2026 held for the end of the meeting.

VI. Old Business

- A. 2026 NHDF Event planning

- 1. Two events will be held in 2026, both in June. The Administrator is tasked with finding venues and reporting back for the December meeting.

VII. Recess to Executive Session to discuss the Administrator's Performance, 6:56pm

VIII. Return from Executive Session: 7:12pm

Chair: Motion to approve the one year extension of the Administrator's contract for 2026 with a 2.5% increase per the option in the 2024 RFQ (to \$46,125 annually). 3-1-0.

Member O'Connell stated that he wishes it to be known on the record that his Nay vote was not a reflection of the work of the Administrator but that he felt any increase in a non-election year was unwarranted.

IX. Ficca motioned to adjourn. 4-0-0. Adjournment at 7:16pm.