

## MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board

Special Meeting

February 25, 2008

Present: Caleb Kleppner (chair), Dennis Curtis, Kevin Diadamo, Jennifer James, Stephen Kovel, Maria Lamberto, Robert Wechsler (Administrator); one reporter from the New Haven Register, Darnell Goldson, declared mayor candidate for 2009.

Meeting called to order by the ex-chair at 5:11

Approval of February 11 minutes

Public comments were requested:

Darnell Goldson asked about where he can find more information about the system and then departed.

Chair arrived at 5:17

Discussion of non-participating candidate triggers and independent expenditures

In New Haven, independent expenditures are defined but they have no impact on the system

The state has very strict rules on independent expenditures that truly disincentives using independent expenditures.

There are several possibilities for how New Haven could address independent expenditures:

- Give the amount that was spent on the independent expenditure to the other candidates
- Match the contributions they are bringing in at a higher rate
- Count the amount against the expenditure ceiling

The group seems to be in agreement that there should be a one-to-one match on the money that was spent, up to the amount that the fund could afford

- However, this does becoming tricky with determining which candidates get money depending on where the ad was directed

Maria suggested that we suggest to the BoA that we adopt the reporting requirement for independent expenditures that the state has.

- Seems to be a consensus around this

Non participating candidates triggering expenditure limits

Currently, if a non participating candidates goes over \$300,000, the other candidates, once they have reached that level, have the option to either lift the ceiling or receive a grant of \$25,000 -- this doesn't seem to be adequate

We could go back and all the money that we've already matched, would go from a 2-1 match to a 4-1 match

- This means the candidate doesn't have to do more fundraising and also it also means that candidates who have raised more money will receive more money
- Is there a benefit to raising the ceiling on which part of the donation we would match (up to \$50?)

#### Discussion of report to State Election Enforcement Commission

The state sent a detailed outline of what they want out of the report  
Rob has completed a draft of the report

#### Discussion of other post-election Democracy Fund activities and obligations

None

#### Next meetings:

Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>  
Monday April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>)

Adjourned