

MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board

Special Meeting

April 21, 2008

Present: Caleb Kleppner (chair), Kevin Diadmo, Jennifer James, Lori Kozlowski, Maria Lamberto, Robert Wechsler (Administrator); one reporter from the New Haven Register.

Meeting called to order

Approval of minutes from March 17th and February 25th meetings

Public comments were requested but none were offered.

Discussion of possible recommendations of changes to the Democracy Fund Ordinance, and possible Democracy Fund regulations and opinions (discussion and possible voting)

1. Kevin moves that the administer, Rob, work with the city of New Haven to establish a separate, interest bearing account with check writing privilege for the Democracy Fund.
Passed 5-0-0

2. Maria moves that the state legislature expressly authorize cities that have a municipal public financing program to adopt contribution limits for non-participating candidates that are the same as the contribution limit for participating candidates.
a. (amendment) The democracy fund recommends that the Board of Alderman to work toward establishing that cities that have a municipal public financing program to adopt contribution limits for non-participating candidates that are the same as the contribution limit for participating candidates.
Passed 5-0-0

3. Question of changing the number of qualifying contributions as well as the dollar amount of qualifying contributions. Several different combinations were discussed.

Jen moves that the dollar amount of qualifying contributions be lowered to \$10.

Passed 5-0-0

Recommendation will be made to the board directly

Ballot access:

Currently, someone who wants to appear on the ballot for the Democratic primary must collect signatures from 5% of registered Democrats.

There was agreement that this should be lowered to allow more people to participate.

Kevin moves that we recommend to the major parties in the city of New Haven that the lower the number of signatures needed to appear on the primary ballot to 3% of party

members and that the major parties make the petitions available more than 45 days before the filing deadline.

Passed 5-0-0

4. Discussion of lowering the spending limit.
 - a. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting since it fits nicely with the other topics

Discussion of other post-election Democracy Fund activities and obligations, including amended forms and other materials (discussion only)

Meeting schedule for the next few months

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

Caleb and Rob will meet with the mayor to discuss reappoints for people expiring. Jen will start searching for her successor

Adjournment