

FACT SHEET FOR THE FAIR ELECTIONS PROGRAM DURING THE 2020 ELECTION CYCLE

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Background

The Fair Elections Program (FEP) is a voluntary public financing program for local political campaigns in the District of Columbia through the combination of matching funds and lump sum base amounts.

The Program will

- ▶ Provide an incentive for more candidates to compete in the electoral process;
- ▶ Encourage residents to have greater civic participation in the electoral process;
- ▶ Amplify the voices of residents by matching qualified small dollar contributions;

Highlights of the Program

- ▶ The program is voluntary and is available to candidates running for the covered office of Mayor, Attorney General, Chairman and member of the Council and At-Large and Ward Member of the State Board of Education.
- ▶ Candidates must pledge to adhere to not accepting contributions from business entities or contributions from traditional Political Action Committees.
- ▶ To be certified by the OCF as a participating candidate, the candidate must obtain the following during the qualifying period.
 - For a candidate for Mayor, qualified small dollar contributions from at least 1000 small dollar contributors, which in the aggregate, total \$40,000 or more
 - For a candidate for Attorney General, qualified small dollar contributions from at least 500 small dollar contributors, which in the aggregate, total \$20,000 or more
 - For a candidate for Council Chairman, qualified small dollar contributions from at least 300 small dollar contributors, which in the aggregate, total \$15,000 or more
 - For a candidate for an At-Large Council seat, qualified small dollar contributions from at least 250 small dollar contributors, which in the aggregate, total \$12,000
 - For a candidate for a Ward Council seat and the At-Large State Board of Education seat, qualified small dollar contributions from at least 150 small dollar contributors, which in the aggregate, total \$5,000 or more
 - For a candidate for a Ward State Board of Education seat, qualified small dollar contributions from at least 50 small dollar contributors, which in the aggregate, total \$1,000 or more

Within 5 business days after a participating candidate is certified, the participating candidate in a contested election shall receive half of the base amount; and within 5 business days after the participating candidate qualifies for the ballot, the participating candidate shall receive the other half of the base amount.

The base amount shall be:

- \$160,000 for the Office of the Mayor;
- \$40,000 for the Office of the Attorney General;
- \$40,000 for the Office of Council Chairman; \$40,000 for the Office of Councilmember elected At-Large and from a Ward; and
- \$10,000 for the Office of State Board of Education

Small dollar contributions from individual District residents and individual non-residents are limited to:

- \$200 for the Office of Mayor;
- \$200 for Office of Chairman of the Council or Attorney General;
- \$100 for a member of the Council elected At-Large;
- \$50 for Members of the Council elected from a Ward or for Members of the State Board of Education elected At-Large;
- \$20 for Member of the State Board of Education elected from a Ward.
- Contributions or loans from the Candidate or an immediate family member are limited to \$2500.00
- Participating candidates are entitled to matching payments for each qualified small dollar contribution from an individual District resident at a rate of 5:1.

- ▶ The maximum amount participating candidates may receive for the 2020 election cycle in matching payments at the 5:1 rate for qualified small dollar contributions from individual district residents is as follows:

- At Large Council Member - \$308,639
- Ward Council Member - \$241,055
- At Large State Board of Education Member - \$21,877
- Ward State Board of Education Member - \$14,006

- ❖ The cap is based on a look back at 110% of the average expenditures of all winning candidates for the covered office sought in the prior two (2) election cycles

- ▶ Program participants may be required to take part in a public debate for each contested Primary, Special or General Election in an election cycle for the covered offices.

Filing Deadlines

- ▶ July 31, 2019
- ▶ December 10, 2019
- ▶ January 31, 2020
- ▶ March 10, 2020
- ▶ April 17, 2020
- ▶ May 7, 2020
- ▶ May 27, 2020
- ▶ June 10, 2020
- ▶ August 10, 2020
- ▶ September 3, 2020
- ▶ September 23, 2020
- ▶ October 10, 2020
- ▶ October 26, 2020 (8 Day Pre General Election)
- ▶ December 10, 2020

Election Dates

- ▶ June 16, 2020 (Primary Election)
- ▶ November 3, 2020 (General Election)

Qualifying Period

- ▶ Primary Election: November 7, 2018 through March 18, 2020 (the last day to file nominating petitions for the office sought in the Primary Elections).
- ▶ General Election: November 7, 2018 through August 20, 2020 (the last day to file nominating petitions as a candidate for a covered office in the General Election).