

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.
- ▶ Contributions may be accepted only from individual District residents and individual non-residents which do not exceed:
 - \$200 for the Office of Mayor;
 - \$200 for the Office of Chairman of the Council or Attorney General;
 - \$100 for the Office of Member of the Council elected At-Large;
 - \$50 for the Office of Member of the Council elected from a Ward or for Member of the State Board of Education elected At-Large;
 - \$20 for the Office of Member of the State Board of Education elected from a Ward.
- ▶ Contributions or loans from the candidate or the candidate's immediate family are limited to \$5,000, in the aggregate, for a candidate for Mayor; or \$2,500, in the aggregate, for a candidate for Attorney General, Chairman and Member of the Council, elected At-Large or by Ward, and Member of the State Board of Education, elected At-Large or by Ward.
- ▶ Contributions may be accepted from Fair Election Committees which do not exceed \$1,500.
- ▶ To be certified by the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) as a participating candidate, the candidate must obtain the following qualified small dollar contributions from small dollar contributors who are individual District residents 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
- ▶ Once certified as a "Participating Candidate," the OCF will coordinate with the Chief Financial Officer to distribute one half of the base amount in a contested election dependent upon the covered office sought, and matching payments for the qualified small dollar contributions received by the candidate prior to and after certification. The remaining one half of the base amount will be distributed once the participating Candidate qualifies for ballot access.

Base Amount Payments

Participating candidates in contested election are entitled to the following base amount payments:

- \$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

Matching Payments

Participating candidates are entitled to matching payments for each qualified small dollar contribution with a value of \$5 or more 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

Debate Requirement

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.

Mandatory Filing Deadlines for Candidates Seeking Certification and Participating Candidates

- ▶ July 31, 2019
- ▶ October 10, 2019
- ▶ December 10, 2019
- ▶ January 31, 2020
- ▶ March 10, 2020
- ▶ April 10, 2020
- ▶ May 10, 2020
- ▶ May 26, 2020 (8 Day Pre-Primary Election Report) (Since this day is the legal holiday, Memorial Day, the filing date will fall on May 27, 2020.)
- ▶ June 10, 2020
- ▶ August 10, 2020
- ▶ October 10, 2020
- ▶ October 26, 2020 (8 Day Pre-General Election Report)
- ▶ December 10, 2020

Optional Filing Deadlines for Candidates Seeking Certification until Certification is Achieved

- ▶ August 31, 2019
- ▶ September 30, 2019
- ▶ October 31, 2019
- ▶ January 10, 2020
- ▶ February 10, 2020
- ▶ March 30, 2020
- ▶ April 30, 2020
- ▶ June 30, 2020
- ▶ July 10, 2020
- ▶ August 31, 2020
- ▶ September 30, 2020

Optional Filing Deadlines for Participating Candidates following Certification

- ▶ February 10, 2020
- ▶ March 30, 2020
- ▶ April 30, 2020
- ▶ July 10, 2020
- ▶ August 31, 2020
- ▶ September 30, 2020

Election Dates

- ▶ June 2, 2020 (Primary Election)
- ▶ November 3, 2020 (General Election)

Qualifying Period

- ▶ Primary Election: November 7, 2018 through March 4, 2020 (the last day to file nominating petitions as a candidate for a covered office sought in the Primary Election).
- ▶ General Election: November 7, 2018 through August 5, 2020 (the last day to file nominating petitions as a candidate for a covered office in the General Election).