

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY AMENDMENTS TO THE FAIR ELECTIONS PROGRAM

D.C. Act 23-50, the “Fair Elections Emergency Amendment Act of 2019,” effective May 22, 2019, on an emergency basis, amends the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 to fully operationalize the Fair Elections Program in anticipation of the 2020 Primary and General Elections. The Fair Elections Program provides for publicly-financed elections in the District of Columbia. The Emergency Act will:

- Set a minimum value of \$5.00 for a qualified small-dollar contribution that can be matched under the Fair Elections Program;
- Clarify the definition of “uncontested election;”
- Allow candidates seeking certification to file, at any time, for certification and receive any base amount and initial disbursement of matching payments to which the candidate is entitled;
- Clarify the requirements for information provided by contributors when contributing and the form for receipts or confirmations provided to contributors;
- Clarify the disbursement process;
- Increase the timeframe for the Director of Campaign Finance to determine whether a candidate meets the requirements for certification from five (5) days to ten (10) business days;
- Increase the timeframe for the appeal where the requirements for certification are not met from five (5) business days to ten (10) business days after the candidate receives the determination;
- Increase the timeframe for the appeal from the revocation of a certification from five (5) business days to ten (10) business days;
- Provide guidance as to which non-participating candidates may participate in Fair Elections Program debates; and
- Clarify the process for donating campaign equipment.

The Office of Campaign Finance will incorporate the requirements of the Emergency Legislation in its mandatory and informal training programs, and in the regulations of the Board of Elections.

The Emergency Act is attached for your review. For more information, please contact the Fair Elections Program Manager, Erick L. Jackson, at erick.jackson@dc.gov; or the Attorney Advisor for the Program, Austin Franklin, Esq., at austin.franklin@dc.gov.