

# FAIR ELECTIONS PROGRAM FACT SHEET FOR WARD 2 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR 2020

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## Introduction

On January 8, 2020, the Board of Elections (Board) declared a vacancy in the Office of Member of the Council from Ward 2, upon the resignation of the public official holding the office. The Board scheduled the Special Election for this seat on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

## Background

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

## The Fair Elections 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 Fair Elections Program in General

- ▶ The Fair Elections Program is voluntary and available to candidates running for the covered office of Mayor, Attorney General, Council Chairperson, Council At-Large, Ward Council, State Board of Education At-Large and Ward State Board of Education.
- ▶ Candidates must pledge to not accept contributions from business entities or traditional Political Action Committees.
- ▶ Contributions may be accepted only from individual District residents and individual non-residents, which do not exceed the amount stated below:
  - **Fifty (\$50) Dollars for the Office of Member of the Council elected from a Ward.**
- ▶ Contributions and, or loans from the candidate and, or the candidate's immediate family member are limited to a maximum of **Two Thousand and Five Hundred (\$2,500) Dollars, in the aggregate, for a candidate for Member of the Council, elected by Ward.**
- ▶ Contributions, which do not exceed One Thousand (\$1,500) Dollars, may be accepted from Fair Election Committees.
- ▶ To be certified by the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF), as a participating candidate, the candidate must obtain the number of qualified small dollar contributions, which do not exceed Fifty (\$50) Dollars, from small dollar contributors, who are individual District residents, during the qualifying period, as follows:
  - **For a candidate for a Ward Council seat, qualified small dollar contributions, not to exceed Fifty (\$50) Dollars, from at least One Hundred and Fifty (150) small dollar contributors, totaling Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars, or more, in the aggregate.**

# FAIR ELECTIONS PROGRAM FACT SHEET FOR WARD 2 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR 2020

Page two

- ▶ Once a candidate is 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, determined by the covered office sought, and matching payments for the qualified small dollar contributions received by the candidate prior to and after certification. The second half of the base amount will be distributed once the Participating Candidate qualifies for ballot access.

## Base Amount Payments

Participating Candidates in contested elections for Ward Council Member seat are entitled to the following base amount payments:

- **Forty Thousand (\$40,000) Dollars for the Office of Ward Council Member;**

## Matching Payments

Participating Candidates are entitled to matching payments for each qualified small dollar contribution with a value of Five (\$5) Dollars or more from an individual District resident at a rate of five to one (5:1).

## Qualifying Period

- ▶ The qualifying period for the Special Election is January 8, 2020, through March 18, 2020.
- ▶ March 18, 2020 is the last day of the qualifying period for candidates seeking certification, in the Fair Elections Program, to participate in the Special Election.

## Filing Deadlines

### Mandatory Filing Deadlines for Fair Elections Program Candidates Seeking Certification and Participating Candidates, in the 2020 Special Election

- ▶ January 31, 2020
- ▶ March 10, 2020
- ▶ April 10, 2020
- ▶ May 10, 2020
- ▶ June 10, 2020
- ▶ August 10, 2020
- ▶ October 10, 2020
- ▶ December 10, 2020

### Optional Filing Deadlines for Fair Elections Program Candidates Seeking Certification until Certification is Achieved in the 2020 Special Election

- ▶ February 10, 2020

### Optional Filing Deadlines for Fair Elections Program Participating Candidates following Certification, in the 2020 Special Election

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

### 2020 Election Dates

- ▶ June 2, 2020 (Primary Election)
- ▶ June 16, 2020 (Special Election)
- ▶ November 3, 2020 (General Election)