



DC Fair Elections

Who We Are

The DC Fair Elections coalition was founded in 2015 and is made up of over 70 organizations, including community groups, political clubs, ANCs and advocates. Our mission to empower voters by providing a limited public matching funds program for qualified candidates by passing the “Fair Elections Act of 2017.” This voluntary program will strengthen local democracy by allowing candidates and elected officials to spend more time with their constituents, and reign in the influence of big money in our elections by balancing the scales in favor of the people who live and vote here.

What is Fair Elections?

The voluntary program we are proposing is a simple and straightforward system – it’s been tested in other cities and states such as New York City, Connecticut and Los Angeles. Candidates who wish to participate in it agree to only accept small dollar donations in exchange for a five to one match on all eligible contributions and receive a startup grant. This means that a \$50 contribution would be matched with \$250 for an effective donation of \$300, ensuring that candidates who participate in the program are competitive in their races.

The program would not restrict outside campaign activity such as independent expenditures.

How Would Candidates, Voters and Residents Benefit?

Our campaign finance arrangement is out of balance and Fair Elections would correct it by providing a powerful incentive for candidates to fundraise in their communities and to encourage voters to become more involved in elections.

DC’s current donor class is whiter, wealthier, older, and more male than the District’s population. More than 60% of campaign contributions come from either individuals who don’t live in DC, or from corporations and PACs, while only 5% came from voters giving \$100 or less.

It doesn’t have to be this way. The Fair Elections Act of 2017 would maximize the impact of small dollar donations and free candidates from having to devote their time to seeking large contributions. It would promote a system that better represents the people who live and vote here, especially women and people of color.

Who is Eligible for the Program?

The program would be available to candidates running for Mayor, Attorney General, Council or Board of Education. To qualify, candidates must accept lower campaign contribution limits and collect a minimum number and amount of small contributions depending on the office they are seeking (see below).

The program’s qualifications guarantee that before a candidate receives public funds, they demonstrate grassroots support by making a serious effort to compete.

Who Supports Fair Elections?

A super-majority on the Council introduced the legislation in March of 2017, with nine co-introducers, Councilmembers David Grosso, Charles Allen, Mary Cheh, Kenyan McDuffie, Phil Mendelson, Brianne Nadeau, Elissa Silverman, Robert White, and Trayon White, with Anita Bonds co-sponsoring the bill.

DC Fair Elections is a broad and diverse coalition of residents and advocates from across the District. We are committed to empowering voters through creating a program that will strengthen local democracy and limit the influence of big money in politics through public financing of elections.



DC Fair Elections Coalition

More than 70 local ANCs, Organizations and Groups have signed on to help us with our mission.

ACLU-NCA	DC for Democracy	Justice First
American Friends Service Committee - DC	DC for Responsible Development Development	League of Conservation Voters MayDay DC
ANC 1A	DC Jews United for Justice	Metro DC- Democratic Socialists of America
ANC 2A	DC Jobs with Justice	ONE DC
ANC 2B	DC Latino Caucus	Pax Christi - Francis of Assisi Community (DC)
ANC 3/4 G	DC League of Women Voters	People for the American Way
ANC 3E	DC National Organization of Women	Positive Force DC
ANC 3F	DC Nurses Association	Potters House
ANC 4D	DC Peace Team	Public Citizen
ANC 5D	DC Public Banking Center	Re-Entry Network
ANC 6B	DC Solar United Neighborhoods	ROC
APALA-DC	DC Statehood Green Party	SEIU 32BJ
Brennan Center	DC Tenants' Rights Center	SEIU Local 500
Code Pink DC	DC Vote	Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators
Common Cause	DC Women in Politics	SPACES
Communications Workers of America	DC Working Families Organization	Stop Police Terror Project DC
D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club	Democracy Initiative	The Assisi Community
DC 350.org;	Demos	U.S. PIRG
DC Area Transmasculine Society	Eckington Civic Association	UFCW Local 400
DC Coalition for Housing Justice	Every Voice	Ward 3 Democratic Committee
DC Divest	Food and Water Watch	Washington Ethical Society
DC Environmental Network	Franciscan Action Network	Washington Peace Center
DC Fair Budget Coalition	Gertrude Stein Democratic Club	We Are Family
	Green Neighbors	
	Greenpeace	

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