



“Fair Elections Act of 2017” Qualification Summary

The chart below illustrates how much candidates for each office could raise, and how much public funding they could expect to receive once they qualify for the program and the ballot.

For example, a candidate for a Ward Council contest could collect contributions up to \$50. Once they collected 100 small contributions adding up to \$2,000, they would qualify for the program and earn the \$40,000 base grant to allow them to hire staff and print materials. Once the candidate qualified for the ballot, every small contribution they receive would be matched 5 to 1. There is no limit on how many \$50 contributions the candidate could accept. But if the candidate can only receive up to \$240,000 in public matching funds, and would need to be an extremely ambitious fundraiser in order to come close to the cap.

Office	Voter Empowerment Support		Qualification Requirements		Estimate Maximum Amount of Matching Funds*
	Base Grant	Small Dollar Limit	Eligible Donors	Amount Raised	
Mayor	\$160,000	\$200	1,000	\$40,000	\$2,880,000
Attorney General	\$40,000	\$150	500	\$20,000	\$600,000
Council Chairman	\$40,000	\$150	500	\$20,000	\$600,000
At-large Councilmember	\$40,000	\$100	300	\$12,000	\$360,000
Ward Councilmember	\$40,000	\$50	100	\$2,000	\$240,000
At-large Board of Education	\$10,000	\$50	100	\$2,000	\$240,000
Ward Board of Education	\$10,000	\$20	50	\$1,000	\$96,000

* Maximum funds are calculated for each office based on a set dollar amount per voter, e.g. \$6 per registered voter for Mayor and \$0.20 for Ward Board of Education. The maximums listed in the table were calculated based on the number of registered voters (480,000) at the time of the most recent general election.

Candidates can raise as much money from small donor contributions as they like. The program’s matching funds ensure a participating candidate is competitive. There is a cap on the total public matching funds available based on the number of registered voters. A candidate may raise additional small dollar funds if they exceed the cap.

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.