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

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.

www.DCFairElections.com

/LCFairElections

@DCFairElex

(Last updated: April 12, 2017)