

# THE FAIR ELECTIONS FUND

## A CANDIDATE GUIDE TO PUBLIC FUNDS IN DENVER'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

### What is the Fair Elections Fund?

The Fair Elections Fund (FEF) was approved by Denver voters in 2018. Candidates who qualify agree to limits on the amount of donated funds they can accept. The fund matches the first \$50 of campaign donations from Denver residents, with nine dollars for every dollar raised.

### How does it work?

If you are interested in participating in the Fair elections Fund:

- 1.) Contact the Office of the Clerk and Recorder campaign finance team
- 2.) File intent to seek FEF funds
- 3.) Complete training
- 4.) Finally, collect contributions from Denver residents of at least \$5 (See chart)



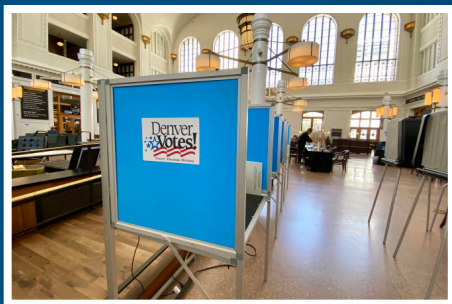
Office sought	Number of qualifying contributions needed	Contribution limit for non-participating candidates	Contribution limit for participating candidates	Maximum amount of public funds that may be received
Mayor	250	\$1,000	\$500	\$750,000
City Council At Large, Auditor, Clerk and Recorder	100	\$700	\$350	\$250,000
City Council District	100	\$400	\$200	\$125,000

### What happens after I qualify?

- 1.) File with the Office of the Clerk and Recorder and demonstrate that you received the number of qualifying contributions.
- 2.) Payments from the fund are made until the election is held.
- 3.) If a runoff election is held, a partial match is made for donations to a candidate during the election cycle will be paid to the candidate. These funds do not count toward the aggregate limits.

Every dollar, up to \$50 from a Denver donor...

...is matched by \$9 from the Fair Elections Fund



### What can I do with FEF money?

In order to ensure public money is spent appropriately, all campaign finance reports will be audited by staff at the Clerk and Recorder's Office. Campaigns that misspend public money may be fined and disqualified from the program.

### Fair Elections Fund requirements at a glance

- Candidates must obtain qualifying contributions from Denver residents
- Candidates must abide by a lower campaign contribution limit
- Campaign finance reports will be audited to ensure compliance
- Candidate finance reports are transparent to the public on SearchLight Denver, our campaign finance and disclosure database



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