

Proposed Voter Owned Election Program

Process

- Has been considered and discussed for several years
- 2007 Session Law
- Town is first municipality to be authorized to establish Public Funding for Municipal Elections
- Two State programs for public funding
 - Appellate Court (Judicial Candidates) 2002
 - Council of State (Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of Insurance) 2007

Proposed Voter Owned Election Program

Council Committee met several times since last fall;

Committee developed proposed program

Input/ advice from State Board of Elections

Democracy North Carolina

Committee Report April 14

Public Hearing tonight (required by Session Law)

Proposed Voter Owned Election Program

Ordinance Drafted to Implement Program
Presented by Committee

Additional provisions based on requirements
of Session Law and based on two existing State programs

Key Elements

1. Voluntary Program

Candidates choose to participate

Candidates must demonstrate public support

Must agree to fund raising and expenditure limits

All candidates have additional reporting requirements

Independent Committees also have additional reporting requirements

Proposed Voter Owned Election Program

2. Demonstration of Public Support

Qualifying Contributions

Council candidates 75 contributions; totaling at least \$750

Mayoral candidates 150 contributions; totaling at least \$1500

3. Fund Raising Limits

Pre-certification fund raising (Seed Money)

Council candidates \$750

Mayoral candidates \$1500

After Certification

Council candidates \$2250

Mayoral candidates \$4500

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4. Public Grants

Council candidates \$3000

Mayoral candidates \$9000

5. Rescue Funds.

Additional funding to participating candidates if non participating candidates or independent committees exceed 140 % of the spending limit for a certified candidate

Up to \$2000 for Council candidates

Up to \$4000 for Mayoral candidates

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6. Other Key Points

Administered by State Board of Elections; Board may provide additional guidelines

No funding for candidates running without opposition

Reports to State Board with copies to Orange County Board and Town of Chapel Hill

Excess funds not spent returned to Town

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Next Steps

Questions?

Public comment this evening

Consider enactment June 9 or later

- Review and approval by State Board of Elections

- Prospective candidates will know before next spring

- Consider and implement independent of election season

Consider reserving some funding in 2008-2009 budget

If enacted, Statutory reporting requirements based on experience