



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Public Engagement Summary

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HALIFAX

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INTRODUCTION

In early 2015, Halifax Regional Council identified a lack of clarity and accountability regarding election campaign finance. In response, the Municipality entered into conversations with the Province, which oversees rules for municipal campaign finance.

As a result, the Province of Nova Scotia (April 2016) made amendments to the Halifax Regional Municipal Charter to allow for a municipal by-law that provides greater clarity on how election campaign finances are administered. Currently, Halifax Regional Municipality is the only municipality in Nova Scotia directed to do so.

Halifax Regional Council instructed staff to continue the conversation and engage the public to gain a better understanding of the values and ideas citizens would like to see represented in the by-law.

Karen Densmore Communications was engaged to gather feedback from elected officials, former candidates and the public on election campaign finance accountability. This input will be taken into consideration when crafting the new by-law and developing related recommendations for Council to consider. The information gathered will also be integrated into candidate information sessions provided by the Municipal Election Clerk's Office to inform interested parties in running for office.

This feedback may also influence campaign finance rules for other municipalities in the province, as the Provincial government will be reviewing the outcomes from the Halifax Regional Municipality's engagement.

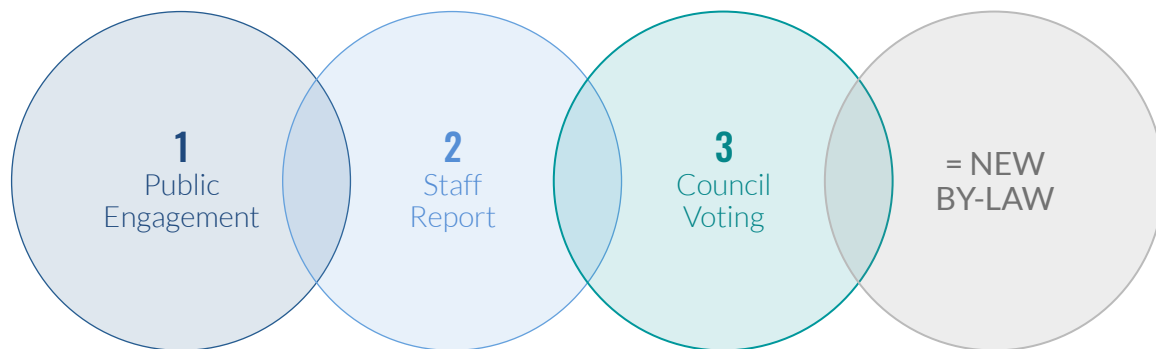
The public engagement focused on the five main areas that correspond with the mandate of the by-law:

1. **Who Can Contribute?**
2. **Maximum Contribution Amounts**
3. **Campaign Contribution Timelines**
4. **Maximum Spending Amounts**
5. **Disclosure, Expenses, Surpluses and Deficits**

These five areas do not exist in isolation; they are all inter-connected. One cannot make decisions on contributions without understanding expenses, and it's not possible to fully understand expenses without addressing disclosure requirements. Through this engagement, the public was asked to consider how each area connects to the others, and how the campaign process can include more rigor and accountability, without creating barriers for people interested in running for office.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

This public engagement is part of a three-step decision-making process that leads to the creation of the by-law. The process includes the public engagement, the staff report and Council's vote on the by-law. The public has had a chance to influence and share their ideas up front to inform the development of the by-law. The public will once again have an opportunity to provide feedback when the by-law goes before the Executive Council.



ENGAGEMENT

The engagement schedule included two pre-engagement focus groups, held on May 24 and 25, 2017, with previous candidates and official agents, as well as Councillors who ran in the last election.

The full public engagement launched on June 1 with the introduction of a background document that outlined requirements currently in place, key considerations and a jurisdictional scan, posted on the Shape Your City engagement website. An online survey was also available from June 1 to July 5, 2017 on the website.

The engagement included three public engagement sessions held over the month of June at the following locations:

Wednesday June 7th

Dartmouth, Harbour East Community Council Room, Alderney Landing, 40 Alderney Drive

Wednesday June 14th

Halifax, Halifax Hall in City Hall, 1841 Argyle St., Halifax

Thursday June 22nd

Bedford –Sackville, Bedford-Hammonds Plains Community Centre

A pop-up information session was also held on June 12 on the Eastern Shore as part of the Halifax Green Network public information meeting.

The engagement sessions were comprised of a presentation from the Municipal Clerk, Kevin Arjoon, small conversation tables for citizens to hear and share other ideas, and breakout sessions for the public to leave more detailed comments under the five focus areas. Halifax Regional staff from the Municipal Clerk's Office was on hand to answer questions.

In total, twenty-eight people attended the pre- engagement stakeholder groups and the three engagement sessions. The events were advertised online, in the Metro newspaper and shared through Halifax's public service announcements. The Shape Your City online survey received 716 submissions. Please note there were no mandatory questions, and that for multiple choice questions respondents were able to select more than one response.

Though more people were expected to participate, the quality of information collected online and in person was valuable. The engagement team received positive feedback from the public about the engagement process.

This report captures the main themes from the stakeholder events, public engagement events and the online survey. The report will be shared with staff and posted on Shape Your City, the municipality's online engagement site.

WHY IS THIS ENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Those who attended the pre-engagement and engagement sessions were asked, Why is Campaign Finance Accountability important to you? The following themes emerged:

I want to be engaged and share my opinions

- I plan to run again, good to be informed by others' opinions and thoughts on this issue.
- To stay engaged, I haven't ruled out running again. This was a hot topic and I have strong opinions about it.
- I want to have a voice as a citizen. I feel strongly about this issue.
- Councillors are not listening to citizens.
- I want to put my two cents in
- I want to be more engaged
- This is democracy in process
- I'm interested in municipal issues

Barriers to running

- Very important issue, I have a lot to say, there's definitely a lot of opportunity for people to run but so many barriers to them in doing so. I experienced a lot of barriers and am still having to pay off my campaign (it will take me another year and a half).
- We want to present an environment where there are not barriers for people coming in.
- People need to have a shot once they enter a campaign.
- Candidates should run on ideas and not who they know

Transparency

- Transparency, accountability. You can have transparency (to see how the system works) but not actually have accountability. Getting to a place where we can translate these overarching things into the rules.
- Congruency between different levels of government.

Limits

- Limit donations to \$100 / annually

Concerned about Corporations and Developers

- Concerned about the funding from developers
- It's about development
- I'm concerned with Councillors taking money from Corporations
- Disagreement with a developer in my neighbourhood

It's about time

- It's about time we have more rules
- The Province should have done something long ago
- Hopefully it won't take two years to get something in place.

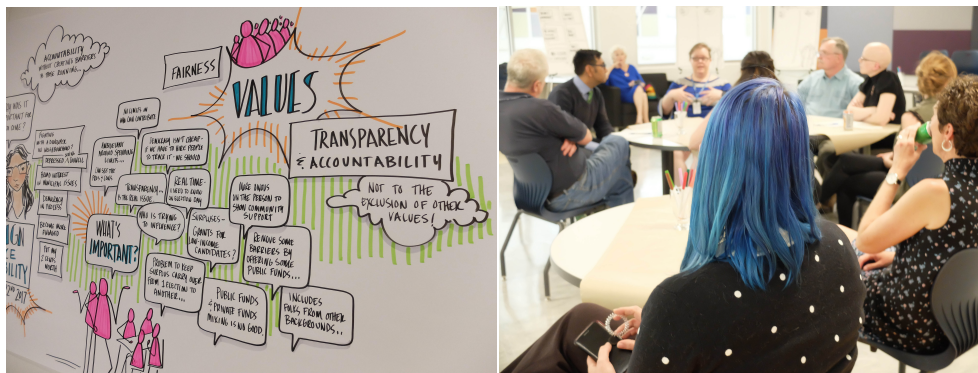
Frustration

- I'm depressed with what I am seeing at Council



WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO CONSIDER ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY?

The following comments were delivered in response to the five main areas that correspond with the mandate of the by-law. This includes comments from the public engagement table conversations and breakout sessions, as well as the comments posted online from the survey. For efficiency, the survey results are shared in a graph format and the comments have been organized into tables by key theme. For a full list of comments please refer to the corresponding appendix.



1: WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?

One of the main focus areas, “Who can contribute?” quickly became one of the most heated areas of discussion. People were concerned about developers and corporations contributing to campaigns.

The online survey shows overwhelming support for individuals, candidates and their family members to fund campaigns. However, there was less support for business, corporations, not for profits, religious organizations and trade unions to fund campaigns. In the survey, not for profits and religious organizations were put together. Feedback from the public indicated that these two options should have been separated. A few people thought not for profits could donate but not religious organizations.

The majority of comments gathered from the online survey and the public engagement either did not want developers and corporations to contribute or they were concerned and wanted to limit these donations. There were also comments given about certain restrictions to place

on contributors, such as residency. To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix A.

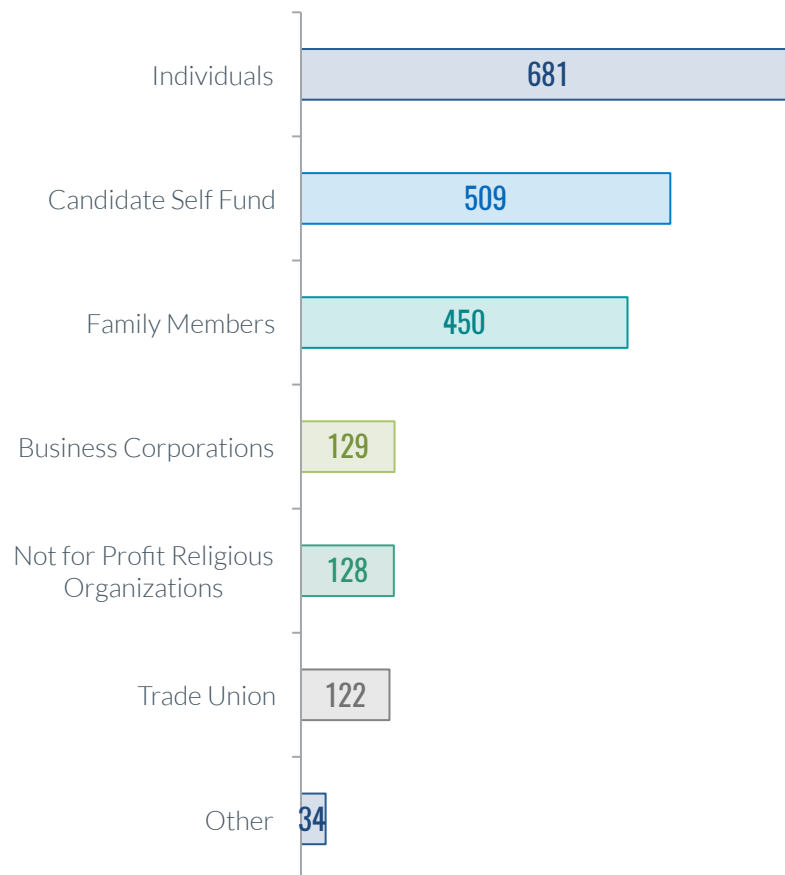
“The greatest potential conflict of interest involves developers who propose developments that Regional Council is expected to evaluate. Such developers should not be permitted to contribute to campaigns: either as individuals or as companies.”

“How do you know when developers are offering money? Sometimes it comes under their personal names.”

Online Survey Results

In your opinion, who should be able to contribute to municipal campaigns?

Participation by online survey votes:



Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix A.

Eligibility to Contribute	Number of comments
Developers should not be allowed to contribute	19
Corporations should not be allowed to contribute	7
Restrictions on voter age and residency	5
Limit contributions from corporations	3
Yes to corporate donations	3
Questions about developer's contributions	3
Anyone should be able to contribute	3
Allow individuals to contribute	3
No to religious organizations contributing	3
Yes to non profit and religious organizations	2
Allow candidates to self fund	2
Allow trade unions to contribute	2
No contributions from advocacy groups	1
Who is contributing?	1
Allow candidates to decide who can contribute	1

1A: FUNDING CAMPAIGNS WITH TAXPAYER DOLLARS

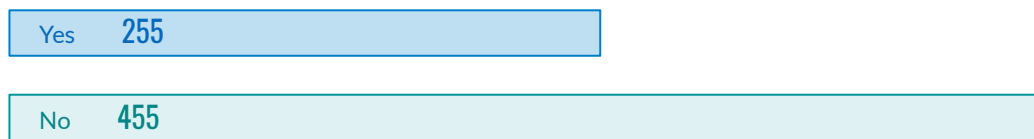
Should a portion of campaigns be municipally funded with taxpayer dollars?

The online survey strongly captured that people did not want taxpayer dollars to fund election campaigns. However, there were 27 comments from the survey and public engagement events that spoke to publically funding election campaigns to allow for equitability and accessibility for candidates to run. There was also acknowledgment of how much oversight and money it would take if public funds were used. To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix B.

Online Survey Results

Should a portion of candidate's campaigns be municipally funded with taxpayer's dollars?

Participation by online survey votes:



Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix B.

Should a portion of candidates' campaigns be municipally funded with taxpayer dollars?	Number of comments
Candidates should be given equal amounts of public funding for equity and accessibility	27
No public funding should be given to candidates for campaigns	5
Questions about public funding	2
Oversight for public funding	1

2 MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

An overwhelming majority of people voted online that there should be limits on campaign finance contributions for Councillors and Mayoral candidates.

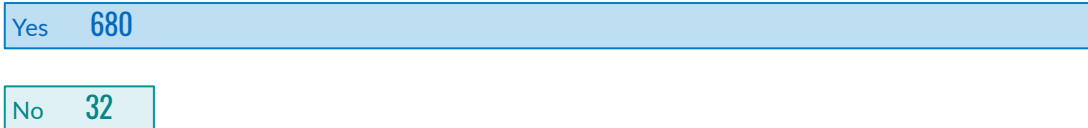
The majority of people voted for an amount between \$101 and \$500, followed by \$501 to \$800 as a contribution limit.

Comments collected during the engagement event asked the municipality to consider actual campaign costs and raising funds in rural areas when setting a contribution limit. To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix C.

Online Survey Results

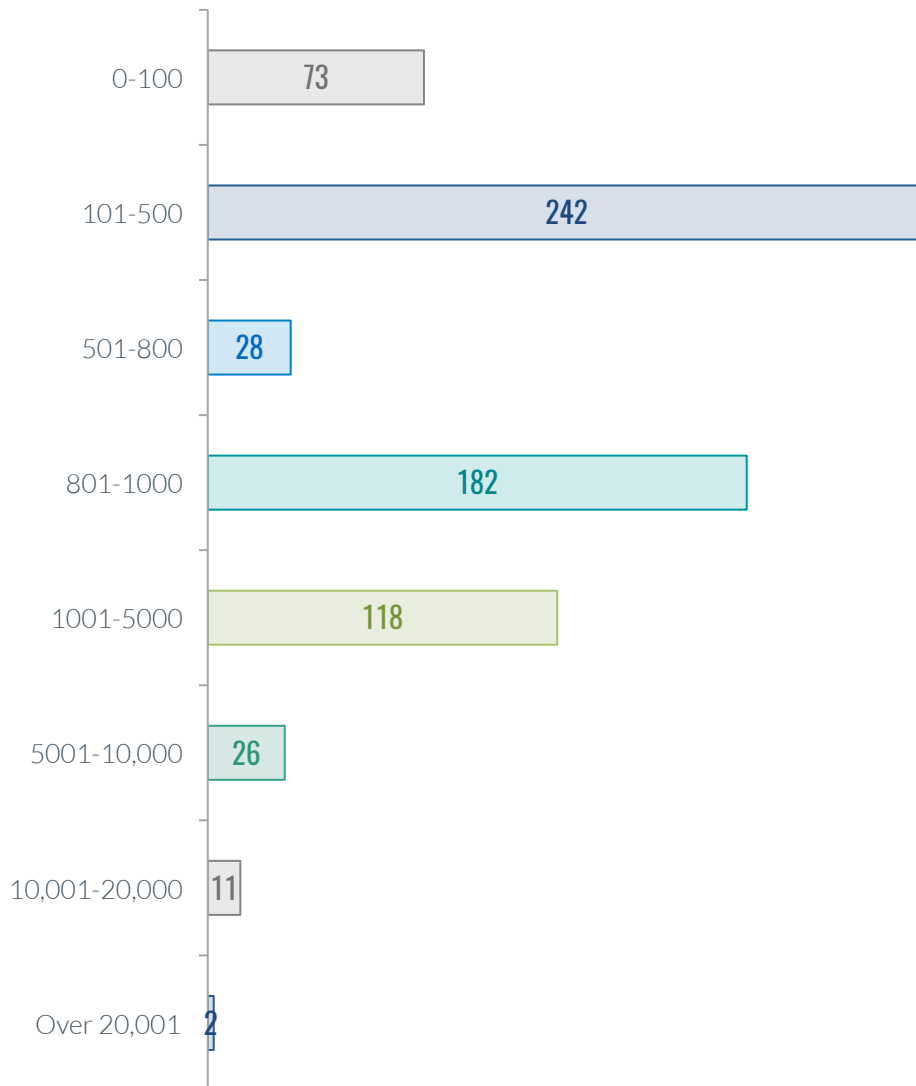
Should there be a limit on how much a contributor can give to a Councillor or Mayoral candidate?

Participation by online survey votes:



If you answered yes, please click one contribution limit for a candidate.

Participation by online survey votes:



Key Themes

To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix C.

Maximum Contribution Amounts	Number of comments
Limit contributions	8
\$100 limit	5
Limit self-funded contributions	2
A formula for a limit	2
Cumulative limits	2
\$200 limit	1
\$500 limit	1
\$1000 limit	1
\$1500-\$2000 limit	1
Total caps per donors	1
Tax contributions	1
Less opportunities to fundraise in rural areas	1
Consider campaign costs	1
No limits	1

3 CONTRIBUTION TIMELINES

Members of the public who participated in the online survey agreed that there should be a defined timeframe for collecting funds for a candidate's campaign.

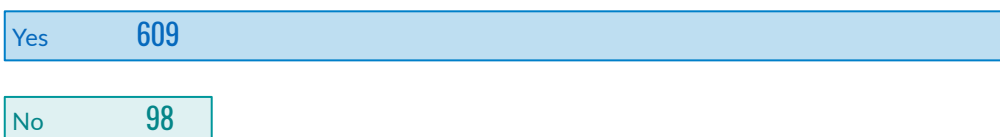
However, the length of those timeframes is less certain. Several comments indicated that it should happen within the same election year. Others thought contributions should only be collected after an election has been called.

One comment requested that donations be made before the election and not collected after. To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix D.

Online Survey Results

Should there be a defined timeframe for collecting funds for a candidate's campaign?

Participation by online survey votes:



Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix D.

Contribution Timelines	Number of comments
Collect contributions within the election year	5
Collect contributions only after an election is called	2
Timelines should allow for transparency	2
No timelines to collect contributions	2
Requests can be made before an election period	1

Donations made before elections, not after	1
Put an effective cap on donations instead of timelines	1
No timelines required if tax dollars are used	1
Allow candidate's to decide who can contribute	1

4 MAXIMUM SPENDING LIMITS

The engagement team collected the most comments under maximum spending limits. The online survey results showed that there should be a limit on how much a Councillor can spend on his or her campaign. However, how to get to that limit is less clear. Most people thought the same limit should be set for all districts. There were comments that stated that both the geographic size and population of a district should dictate spending limits.

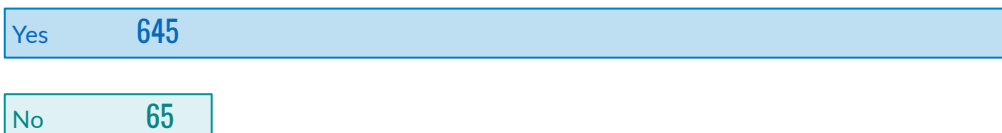
The vast majority of comments were about signage. People commented that signs are a large expense to campaigns and this could easily be addressed by having a few community signs with all the candidates listed on it. Comments were also captured on minimizing campaign costs by using technology.

Lastly, one comment also asked to consider campaign costs for rural Councillors who may have a lower populated area but have further to travel. To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix E.

Online Survey Results

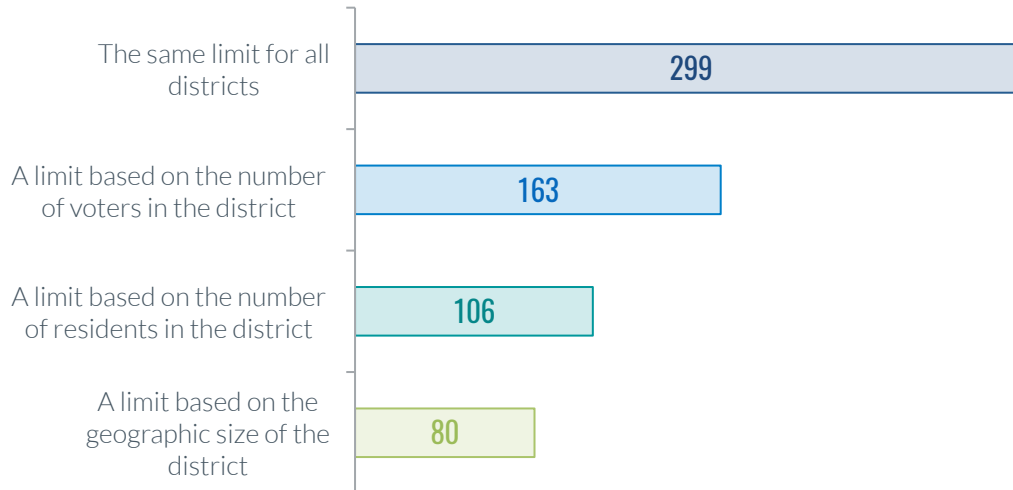
Should there be a limit on how much a Councillor can spend on his or her campaign?

Participation by online survey votes:



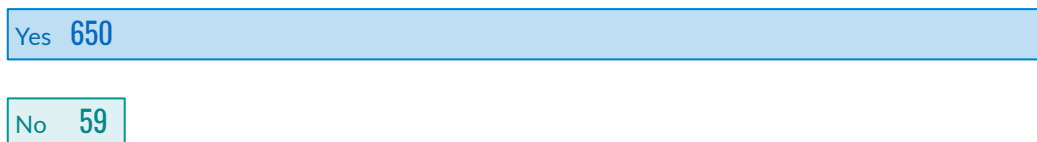
If you answered yes above, how should the spending limit be based for a Councillor candidate?

Participation by online survey votes:



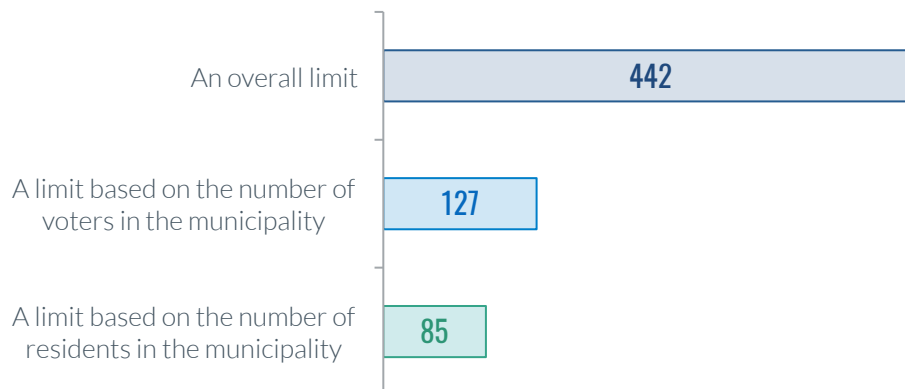
Should there be a limit on how much a Mayoral candidate can spend on his or her campaign?

Participation by online survey votes:



If you answered yes above, how should the spending limit be based for a Mayoral candidate?

Participation by online survey votes:



Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix E.

Maximum Spending Limits	Number of comments
Signage expense	10
Caps and formulas for spending amounts	10
Limiting spending amounts	9
Spending amounts based on geographic size and the number of residents	7
Minimize campaign costs	7
Do we understand campaign costs?	4
Do not limit spending expenses	2
Depends on the size of the district	2
Equitability and fairness	2
Campaign costs for rural Councillors could be more expensive	1
Equal spending amounts from tax dollars	1
Self funded amount should be included in maximum spending limits	1
No spending limits, just disclosure	1

5 DISCLOSURE

Comments collected under disclosure addressed what information should be disclosed, such as names of developers, and requested no anonymous donations. Most comments captured asked that disclosure be made online and in real time. This would allow people to see who was donating to which candidates. People wanted to know this information before they voted.

There were also comments supporting audited statements, as well as one against it, recognizing that this may be a barrier for people to run.

“Hiring an accountant to do an audit would be a show-stopping barrier to people running for election”

Key Themes

To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix F.

Disclosure	Number of comments
What information should be disclosed?	9
Disclose contributions online in real time	7
Disclose contributions before the election	6
General disclosure	4
Report audited statements	4
No need for disclosure if there are limits or if it's from taxes	2
Disclose online	2
Reporting after 60 days	1
How are donations reported between elections?	1
In-kind contributions	1
Donations should be made online through the Municipal Clerk's Office	1
Issues with reporting live	1

5A CONCERNS ABOUT CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were several comments collected with concerns about conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, especially regarding developers contributing to election campaigns. There were specific comments that Councillors should refrain from voting if there is a perceived conflict of interest regarding a development or issue.

Lastly, there were comments on what oversight would be required to prevent a conflict of interest.

Key Themes

To view the full list of comments please refer to Appendix G.

Concerns About Conflict of Interest	Number of comments
Conflict of interest	17
Councillors should refrain from voting if there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest	9
Oversight and controls to prevent a conflict of interest	3

5B TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT

Transparency was one of the most discussed themes that emerged from the engagement. Below are a few comments. See Appendix H for a full listing of comments.

“Transparency needs to be a guiding principle.”

“Transparency is a must. Any/Every one must easily be able to access contribution details. Details should be made available in electronic form, not paper, this would be better for any analysis and cheaper to provide to requesters.”

“Transparency, fairness, and accountability are desperately needed to increase the level of trust citizens have with the electoral process. The system is broken. It enables candidates to hide the money they receive from donors who do not want to be listed in the contributor report.”

With transparency there were also concerns about oversight. How can we monitor the transparency and how much will it cost to have oversight. Below are a few comments:

“Finally, there needs to be real and effective monitoring of these limits. Transparency reports have to be timely, they have to be accurate, and violating the fundraising and expenditure rules needs to come with significant consequences, up to voiding election results. Thanks again for giving this important issue the scrutiny it requires.”

“Democracy is not cheap. Do we have to hire people to watch it?”

Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix H.

Transparency and Oversight	Number of comments
Transparency	10
Oversight	5
An ombudsman is required	1
Use technology to be transparent	1

5C EXPENSE DISCLOSURE

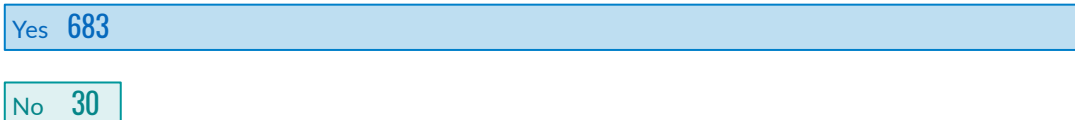
Currently candidates are required to report contributions but not expenses. The online survey illustrates the majority of people felt that expenses should be reported. This was supported by comments made during the engagement. People want to know what their money was used for or spent on. It was also noted that disclosing expenses would inform others in the future about how much it would cost to run a campaign.

There was also a request for the municipality to establish allowable and non-allowable expense guidelines.

Online Survey Results

Should candidates for Councillor or Mayor publically report expenses?

Participation by online survey votes



Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix I.

Expense Disclosure	Number of comments
Disclose and report on expenses	6
Audited expenses will be a barrier	2
Identify allowable and non allowable expenses	1
Allow candidates to claim expenses on taxes	1

5D SURPLUS AND DEFICITS

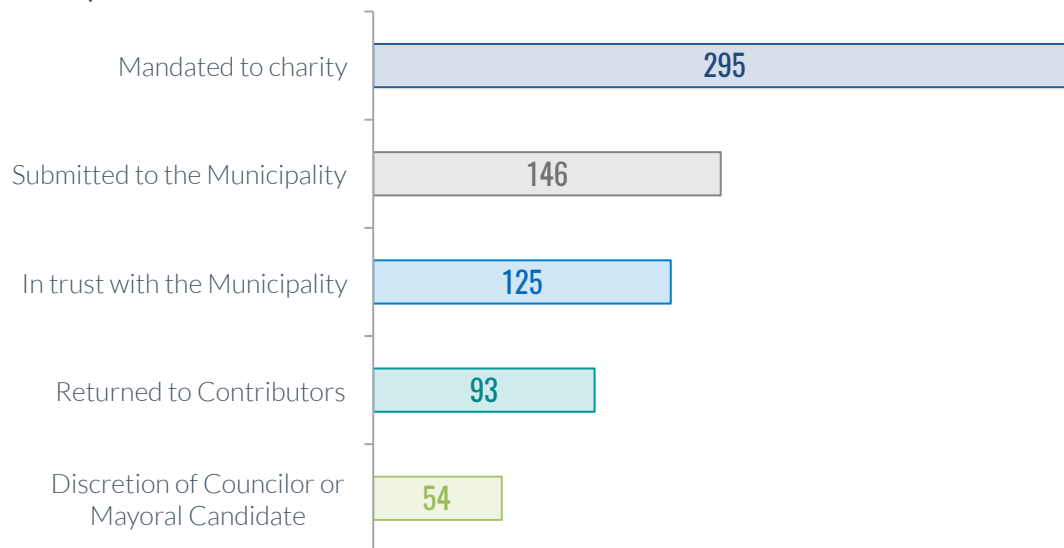
There was a lot of feedback regarding surpluses. Many of those who participated in the online survey thought that surpluses should be given to a charity.

People also felt that the municipalities should hold surpluses in trust for the candidate while others felt it should be returned to the contributors. However, it was noted that returning contributions could take a lot of resources. Other ideas included using surplus funds in the district in which the candidate ran and a request for guidelines regarding acclimations. For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix J.

Online Survey Results

How should surplus funds be handled? (Funds that are collected for a campaign but not used.)

Participation by online survey votes:



Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix J.

Surpluses and Deficits	Number of comments
HRM should hold surpluses in trust on behalf of the candidate for the next election	10
Surplus funds should be given to charity	7
Hold surplus funds in trust to fund candidates equitably	6
Surplus funds should be refunded to the contributors	6
Surplus funds should fund the municipality's election costs and election education	4
Surplus funds should be used in the candidate's district	3
Surpluses should not be carried forward	3
Let the candidate decide how the surplus is used	3
Surplus campaign funds should be used on constituent's projects	2
Surplus funds should be audited	1
Incumbent's surplus, how much are they using from previous campaigns?	1
Candidates should not be allowed to cash out surpluses	1
Guidelines regarding acclimations	1
How to deal with deficits	1

6 OTHER COMMENTS & AREAS TO CONSIDER

The public shared further comments about the democratic and election process regarding campaigns, restrictions on running as a candidate and low voter turn out.

There were also concerns and comments captured about too much money being involved in politics, including corporate funding and wealthy individuals.

There were suggestions of term limits for Councillors and for Councillors to be engaged at all times not just during elections. The public also put forth comments about using websites to better share information about candidates.

“I would rather see the municipality invest in equitable information opportunities for candidates than fund campaigns. Provide open houses, a website that gives each candidate a webpage to provide information and other tools that make it easier for voters to learn about candidates platforms. Far more productive than funding more lawn signs.”

Key Themes

For a full list of comments please refer to Appendix K.

Other Comments and Areas to Pay Attention to	Number of comments
Democratic Processes	
Democratic processes	2
Election process	2
Restrictions on running as a candidate	2
Low voter turn out	2
Be engaged all the time not just during elections	2
Take away discretionary spending from the Councillors	1
Take the Money out of Politics	
Take big money out of politics	9

Federal and Provincial Jurisdictions	
Refer to Federal and Provincial Jurisdictions	4
Refer to the rebate system in Ontario	1
Term Limits	
Term limits for Councillors	4
Tax Deductions	
Allow tax deductions on contributions	3
Put campaign money into better information services	
Use websites to share information	2
More funding to go towards citizens	1
Support for campaign finance accountability	
Supporting statements for campaign finance accountability	3

WHAT VALUES DO WE AS CITIZENS WANT APPLIED TO SHAPE AND INFORM THIS BY-LAW?

We asked the public to prioritize which values they would direct the municipality to consider when drafting the by-law. The following values were identified:

Equitability & Fairness

- Running lower cost campaigns
- Level the playing field
- Encourage a wider diversity of candidates, more women and people of colour, not people who can access \$20 thousand dollars easily or the upper middle class people.

Accountability & Ethics

- Only residents of HRM should be allowed to donate to any candidate for municipal council and mayor - not corporations and unions. The limit should be \$100
- Watch for conflict of interest

Transparency

- Not to the exclusion of other values
- Disclosure

Commitment

- Implementation by 2020



IN SUMMARY

The stakeholder sessions quickly revealed how one focus area cannot be addressed in isolation – they are all interconnected. One cannot make decisions on contributions without understanding expenses, and it’s not possible to fully understand expenses without addressing disclosure requirements.

The most salient issue during this engagement was the concern from the public about developers and corporations contributing to election campaigns. People were concerned about the possible conflict of interest this could put Councillors in when they have to make decisions on developments and projects in the future.

There was also a strong response to limiting spending limits, especially regarding the use of signs during campaigns. Suggestions were made that candidates could minimize costs by using technology and websites.

The public also shared many ideas on how to deal with surpluses from election campaigns. The majority felt it should be mandated to a charity.

Lastly, the public asked that the municipality apply values of equability, accountability and transparency when drafting the by-law.

This report will be forwarded to municipal staff and taken into consideration when drafting the new by-law on campaign finance accountability. It will also be posted on the Shape Your City engagement website for reference.



APPENDIX A

Themes

#1 Who is Eligible?

No developer contributions

Developers should not be allowed to contribute at all. There is too much influence and what's expected if that candidate should win

In particular, developers of projects within the municipality should not be allowed to make contributions to elections. They often have deep pockets and candidates should not feel indebted to these developers. It leads to all the breaking/rearranging of by-laws when a developer wants to build something that is contrary to the current by-laws. The same rules should apply to developers as apply to individuals: follow the by-laws.

We don't want developer donations in our government. We should simply increase taxes on them.

Stop taking money from developers

The developers have excessive influence under the current lack of enforceable rules. The developers have their companies, themselves and in the names of their relatives, brothers, sisters, wives, children and others, even more room to contribute for a quid pro quo arrangement.

The greatest potential conflict of interest involves developers who propose developments that Regional Council is expected to evaluate. Such developers should not be permitted to contribute to campaigns: either as individuals or as companies.

No developers should be allowed to contribute

It makes me and the people feel uncomfortable to take developer money. Everyone feels uncomfortable by it, so don't do it

For me though, two significant cheques came in and I really needed it, but I said no. It's unethical to do it. We're in there. We need to stay at an arms length.

Councillors are constantly deciding on developments! We shouldn't accept money from them. I don't want developers to influence anyone.

No developer money, they have a vested interest

No developers - have a vested interest

	It's not just the guys that have the cranes. What about the guys that make subdivisions?
	Developers are in chambers all the time! I have an ethical issue with that.
	Absolutely no donations should be accepted by contractors, businesses or agents. The full list amounts should be available for public viewing. Too many councillors are being swayed and look where it has left our city. In the hands of the contractors. Halifax should never have allowed any building to impede the view of Citadel Hill from the water. All commercial buildings should have been built behind Citadel. This would have kept the integrity of the original Halifax.
	I can't believe this survey form did not ask THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT question: "Should donations from developers and contractors be allowed?" The answer is a resounding NO!!! Any business entity that requires development approvals or service contract approvals or seeks variations (exceptions) to established development rules or standards from Council or Councillor committees should NOT be allowed to make donations to the very politicians who will be making those decisions. It's a clear and blatant conflict of interest and it is long past time to stop this highly inappropriate and shameful practice. No amount of bluster from Councillors who accept such donations can justify its continuation. It is simply unacceptable to citizens and taxpayers. End it now!!! The integrity of Council, this review processes and the principles of good and fair governance depend on it.
	Money received from developers/businesses should not be allowed in any circumstances
	No more developer/construction money tainting our elections please.
	We need developers to stop buying political favour through campaign contributions.
Allow individuals to contribute	Individuals can support individual candidates.
	Individuals only
	Allow individuals to fund campaigns. ***** (Nine people voted for this option at the public engagement events.)

No contributions from corporations

Corporation should not be allowed to donate to candidates. As individuals, their owners and employees can donate, but corporations are not citizens and so should not be entitled to influence the outcome of elections with money.

Where is the line? What about small businesses? Would they be trying to influence council?

Would DEFINITELY disallow contributions from developers and major corporate entities!!

There should be absolutely zero contributions accepted from corporate or businesses. These contributions are claimed as an expense and two things kick into gear: 1. All of those company's customers ultimately pay for that contributions, and 2. The contribution lowers that company's net taxable income (in essence, "written off"). On a secondary point: Should-for any reason- a corporate entity be permitted to make contributions they should be restricted to one donation only; that being in the district that houses their head office. Contributing to multi-districts only raises the perception of influence and conflict of interest, and that perception (or reality) of distrust by any reasonable person should trump all else. Currently, the public has lost faith in the system, and funding is a large part of why.

Corporations who are building huge buildings, opposed to the neighbourhood they are supposedly "joining" shouldn't be able to make major financial contributions to the people who will pass the proposed building through the laws.

Businesses and trade unions should not be allowed to support individual candidates. If we ever develop a party system of municipal government, they could donate to a party, but never to individuals.

I am strongly opposed to businesses contributing to campaigns of any elected official, and in particular, I am opposed to developers and their companies (regardless of whether it's the main company, a holding company or any other subsidiary company) being permitted to contribute. There is no condition under which it doesn't appear to be done to curry favour for future business endeavours that might require votes of Council.

Allow candidates to self fund

In the "other" section for question 1, I wanted to add that candidates should be able to self-fund to an extent but that there should be a limitation in order to make self-funding accessible to more people.

Allow candidates to self-fund. ***** (Five people voted for this option at the engagement events.)

Restrictions on voter age and residency

Should be 18+ voting age

Have citizenship

In terms of who can contribute, I think they should have a residence in HRM, and possibly even within the district whose candidate they are contributing to.

It shouldn't matter what location in the world that the contributions come from.

Residence status in HRM, District and Province, 6 months prior to election.

Questions about developer's contributions

It's hard because there's a difference between small and big developers. Their influence on the city is so different.

Does taking developer money give someone an unfair advantage? It's not actually a significant amount of money.

How do you know when developers are offering money? Sometimes it comes under their personal names.

No to religious organizations

Contributions from not-for-profits would be OK with me, but Not religious organizations.

Not-for-profits should be able to contribute, but not religious organizations.

In terms of who should be allowed to contribute, I don't feel non-profits and religious organizations should be grouped together as I feel non profits should be allowed to contribute but religious organizations should not.

Limit contributions from corporations

Contributions should be from individuals only or if we include businesses it should be capped at a very low amount. There are too many questions that come up when councillors make decisions that affect people or businesses and they contributed money to a campaign. If the cap is very low, it isn't as questionable, but I would still prefer not to see it. Otherwise it feels very much like buying the councillors vote for items that will affect you in the future.

Of every recommendation, removing the influence of businesses (especially developers) from individual campaigns is important to me, and limiting contributions to those that live in the area would help prevent outside influence. I want to know that candidates were elected not by how much money they had to spend, but that voters believed in their message/intent (even if it's just a step in that direction).

Limiting the amount of contribution to less than \$100.00 is a good start to curbing this unbalanced system.

Yes to corporate donations

If a person wants to run for council and their mother owns a small bakery why shouldn't they be allowed to help contribute, to the cause? If only personal donations are allowed then we cut off another source of support for new people wanting to run. What is wrong with donations that are disclosed? If we turn to tax payer money, then less accountability and less voter turn out.

One person voted for corporations to contribute during the public engagement events.

Laissez faire should apply. Candidates should be able to freewheel the city needs wealth and development instead of a million ways being erected to stifle growth and prevent change in every single development opportunity. Candidates who have money and can raise money can drive development more successfully in the long term.

Anyone can contribute	Anyone or organization should be able to support a candidate, but at a modest level. It should all be above-board.
	Any person or organization who is affected by decisions of regional council should be able to donate at any time up to a democratic limit. The only restrictions should be that, like lobbyists, potential candidates should register with the municipality and report everything related to the candidacy: donations, expenses, activities, meetings, volunteers, family ties, etc.
	Any one person or group or entity can contribute.
Allow trade unions to contribute	Trade unions are the only larger organizations that should be allowed to contribute campaign financing because they represent individuals who do not control the means of capital and production, and whose voices are unfairly and poorly represented in corporate media coverage.
	Allow trade unions to contribute to campaigns. ** (Two people voted for this option at the public engagement events.)
Yes to non profit and religious organizations	Yes, non-profits & religious organizations can fund campaigns. ** (Two people voted for this option at the public engagement events)
No advocacy groups	In addition, I would like a ban on donations from advocacy groups.
Who is contributing?	Raising money: whom are you going to get the money from? Where you get the money from is the key.
Candidate's decision	People should face the repercussions of the money they take and whom they take it from. It's the individual's decision to make. They should start considering public backlash for their decisions.

APPENDIX B

Themes

#1A Taxpayer funding from the Municipality for candidates' campaigns

Candidates should be given tax payer funding for equity and accessibility

A better option to consider is to provide candidates with an equal amount of public money and limit it to public money, making it fair and allowing anyone, rich or not to participate, better for democracy

Funding aid for potential candidates should be available for all who want to run. Amount of funding should be set at a flat amount for all candidates. To apply candidates should submit their expected cost to campaign, which includes how they plan to fund outside of municipal funding. Detailed records of expenses should be kept by the candidate and submitted to the funding agency (municipality)

I think all candidates should have the same pot of money to work with.

I think campaigns should be minimally funded by taxes with NO contributions allowed including candidates funding their own campaign. The debates should be public and broadcast via TV, radio and internet but no individual advertisements or mud slinging allowed.

I think *no one* should be able to contribute to a campaign - it should be 100% funded by the municipality. This could be financed by reducing the current council salary and keep those funds to fill a war chest or by raises taxes on the rich.

The municipality should contribute 100% of funds to each candidate and it's should be equitably distributed.

The municipality should fund 100% of the campaigns in my opinion.

I would like to see only municipally funded elections. No outside contributions. Flatten the money advantage and make it about ideas and skills, not ads and flyers.

Further to question#1 and in line with question#2--I think elections should be government funded to the extent allows people of modest means to actually run if they so choose. Right now the majority of people cannot afford to run in elections. Surpluses could help pay for this.

If the municipality were to contribute a defined amount to each candidate, that would be more fair to those who do not have money or connections! In fact, only that type of funding is the fairest way of handling this situation. We must eliminate councillors being " beholden to " individuals/organizations/unions/developers... This municipal funding would only be assured when the candidate has a signed proportion of voters (HRM staff would determine appropriate numbers) on his/her sheet prior to election funding. Maybe this would bring out voters like never before. In the past, people did these jobs as service to their communities but now they are full time positions! Many become career politicians due to high salaries.

Level the playing field so all candidates have enough money to run a campaign adequate to get their message out to voters. Spending should be limited so that competition is on the basis of merit, not money, and funds are not wasted.

No contributions. Every candidate should get same amount as funded through taxes. No signs. No popularity contest mentality. Candidates can be researched on line and at regulated appearances providing equality for all.

Expenses could be kept to a minimum if all money came from tax dollars, reusable signs with slots for pictures and name were used, and standard sized signs used in only specified areas, placed by city workers. All candidates would have a posting on the municipal website, responses to questions on topics known to be of interest in the area plus category of "other". People could search responses by candidate or topic. Phone and contact info would be available online and in public placed for people who want to ask questions and don't have computer access. Literature could be mailed or dropped off to interested parties. No more door to door campaigning. This would level the playing field for disabled people and seniors who want to be a candidate. Lack of money or not moving in "the right" circles would no longer be a barrier. There would be public forums where people get to see how the candidate fares in ad hoc debate and conversations. These would be televised and available as recordings e.g. at libraries and online. Mayors would potentially could have a larger budget re signage and potential literature distribution. Literature would only go out by request of the individual voter. At the end of the campaign there may be money left over which would automatically belong to the municipality. Any time fundraising is part of an election there can be influence from lobby groups, corporations or developers who can put money into campaigns by giving money to individuals who make it look like a legitimate donation. The best-funded campaigns tend to win. I do not want the person with the best fundraising team to win. I want the person with the best ideas and ethics with a true interest in the welfare of the inhabitants to win.

I only feel that a small portion of the campaign should be funded by the municipality to level the playing field between higher and lower income candidates. Perhaps this should be a sliding scale level of support.

There are many people who would make thoughtful politicians who can't afford to run for office. I think HRM should support candidates who may represent the average person who doesn't have a lot of money to contribute to campaigns.

I think it is unfair that candidates have to fund their campaign. It makes running for our council inaccessible for too many people. They should have core funding available and not have to fundraising. Fundraising often leads to corruption anyway.

Participation of taxpayers money keeping more evenness in the campaign

Since elections are unfairly rigged and marketed by individuals with massive financial wealth and their corporate interests; all election financing should come mainly from the organization that is managing the election (i.e.: the municipality

Also a taxpayer funded campaign contribution to each candidate should be available, and specifically developer contributions should be disallowed or severely limited.

For municipally funded campaigns, I feel it should be a low amount and be stipulated for use of specific items (like signs). Perhaps only available for 1st run attempts to get more people engaged in running.

Yes, there should be public funding, what is not used goes back to the city. (This will help people with disabilities participate)

Spending= Contributions if it all comes from tax dollars (not groups).

Three people voted that funding should come from taxes to fund campaigns during the public engagement events.

Would like to see a fund established that provides the same amount (but does not eliminate the need to also raise contributions from individuals) to each candidate to operate his or her campaign. This would be funded out of municipal tax revenues and a certain percentage would be set aside each year of the 4 years between elections. Within a designated period following the election (30 days?) this grant as well as all other campaign contributions would be reported by the candidate/agent in detail (donor, address, date, amount) to the Municipal Elections Office and to Elections Nova Scotia.

Money seems to be the big issue to a fair campaign. You take money out of the issue by creating a base level funding. Anything not spent should be put back into the pool instead of any charity organization.

	Having public finds available could open elections up for new candidates.
	Give taxpayer grants to those from a lower income to help them run as a candidate.
No public funding should be given to candidates for campaigns	NO HRM MONEY FOR COUNCILLOR CAMPAGAINS!!!! HRM already spends too much on our tax dollars on non-essential items IMO, including HRM salaries!
	Not at all interested in paying candidates with municipal tax dollars. Keep the formula simple.
	Taxpayers should NEVER have to pay for anything.
	Election funds should be private, no tax payer funds.
	No there should not be public funding, let candidates campaign
Questions about public funding	Is there a mechanism through property tax where a general pool is created where every potential elector is entitled to a certain share based on the electorate?
	I have trouble with the elector numbers. We could be going by how many doors using Canada Post numbers.
Oversight for public funding	Public funding could increase the burden on taxpayers. How many new people do we need to hire to monitor?

APPENDIX C

Themes

2 Maximum Contribution Amount

Limit contributions

Donations from individuals MUST be capped, and, just as importantly, capped low, to avoid those with money being able to buy candidates and having more of a voice than those without the disposable income to donate.

I believe that larger maximum contributions will disenfranchise poorer voter when we should be helping them be politically active.

If anyone doubts the need for limits to contributions they need to read "Dark Money" by Jane Mayer.

Limits on what individuals can contribute

Yes to individual limit if not tax dollars.

The underlying issue is concern that financial contributors may be able to exert undue influence on elected officials. A reasonable limit on the total amount that an individual or entity can contribute to a candidate or potential candidate within the electoral period of four years, coupled with full disclosure of contributions and expenditures, should satisfy those concerns.

Where is the money coming from? People's perception is that money directly changes the votes. Limiting the amount of each donation might be better than limiting who can donate because individuals from the business or union can give the money. Just changing who the donation is coming from would look like our democracy is improving when actually it is not.

Yes, there should be contribution limits for equity.

\$100 Limit

Limit to \$100 per donation (Includes In kind donations)

One time donation of \$100 spread over your choice

	Limit developers, corporations and business donations to \$100 each because it can be difficult to define who is a developer.
	Yes and my suggestion is \$100/donation to each candidate. Again, we want a candidate to seek wide support not just support of a few \$1000 donors.
	Yes. Contribution limits should be low, so councillors don't feel beholden to certain individuals, say \$50 max.
Limit self funded contributions	There is no question about limits for candidates to their own campaigns. I feel this is important. Clearly this limit should be higher than individual donors, perhaps in the 10-25k range.
	There should be limits on self-funding.
A formula for a limit	Yes, there should be limits. Perhaps a formula should be devised that determines the limits based on what might be the contribution of a person of average means.
	I think that dollar limits should be linked to some other dollar quantity that usually rises over time (not necessarily inflation because who knows if that would be an appropriate measure for what happens in municipal politics). I don't think it should be set at a particular number intended fixed for good because that just guarantees that in later years it will need to be re-visited and (most likely) increased. I do think that after 2 elections a review of any new funding policy should be reviewed and we should have a report on whether or not it's making any difference to previous practice. Maybe the number of dollars a councillor and/or mayor can spend on their campaign should be tied to the total tax revenue of the municipality. Then if (oh please oh please) there is a sudden increase in funds within the municipality, the people vying to make decisions about those funds can run election campaigns reflecting the size of their jobs. And if (oh please no) there is a decrease in the funds available to the municipality, we won't see councillors enraging the impoverished electorate with their lavish campaign spending. Just a thought.
Cumulative limits	In addition to single donation amount limits I think there should be a cumulative maximum amount that candidates can receive from businesses, non-profits and unions - broken into 3 separate categories with their own maximums (same maximum for each category). This would allow candidates to fund-raise in each area without one category having an unfair advantage.

	\$100 per individual (Quebec model) in municipal election year- spread over as many candidates as they choose.
\$200 Limit	I suggest maximum limit of contribution by any individual or business or organisation should be \$200. Candidate's self-contribution limit should be same as that of any other donor. Contributions by candidate's family members should be limited to amount equivalent of a total eligible maximum, by no more than three individuals (i.e., \$600/family.)
\$500 Limit	Small individual contributions should be allowed up to \$500, which would not unfairly influence candidates.
\$1000 Limit	Yes. Individuals only, \$1000 max
\$1500- \$2500	Question 4: The ranges here are a little odd to me - so much variability in the lower amounts and then a big jump to \$5000. I would have put the limit over \$1000 but under \$2500, or maybe even a cap of \$1500.
Total caps per donors	Total cap on contributions from each donor should be \$2000.
Tax contributions	There should be a tax on all contributions of 10%-25% that is redistributed to candidates that are within the top ten most discriminated against groups in Canada (current top three Canadian census 2015 - Black, Jewish and South East Asians)
Fundraising in rural areas	Consider there may be less fundraising opportunities in rural communities than urban.
Consider campaign costs	Consider campaign costs are going up, and the ability to raise money for us or for anyone else.
No limits	No, simplicity, precludes cheaters, cost of enforcement.

APPENDIX D

Themes

#3 Contribution Timelines

Collect contributions within the election year	From start of election year till close of poll
	Yes, during election years only because the purpose is campaign financing.
	Yes. Municipal elections are in mid-October so donations only are allowed in year of election after May 1st—i.e. 5 months before the date of the election.
	Coincide date of filling nomination papers with eligibility to vote
	Yes, when election is a 4-year election cycle.
Collect contributions only after an election is called	No Funds should be collected until an election is called.
	No donations prior to a campaign
Timeline should allow for transparency	The time frame for the collection of campaign contributions should end long enough before the election that the list of contributors can be published and publicly available BEFORE the vote. The same should be the case for the list of expenditures.
	Timelines can be open as long as you disclose.
No timelines to collect contributions	Ideally no end date, maybe stop a week before for disclosure prior to election.
	Begin anytime
Requests can be made before an election period	The timeframes to collect contributions is irrelevant as the candidate can be asking weeks before then but only collect with the set period of time.
Donations made before elections, not after	Donations should be made before the actual election. (People may give after someone has won for favour)

**No timelines for
personal funds to be
contributed**

If there is a timeline for collecting funds - the candidate's personal money should not be confined to the timeline.

**Put an effective cap
on donations instead
of timelines**

An effective cap would obviate the need for a fundraising period. A set period has the twin downsides of being hard to police and coming with the potential unintended consequence of an aggravating number of solicitations in a short time period. I think an effective cap would also obviate the need of a process for handling surplus funds - it helps create a built-in limit for fundraising

**No timelines required
if tax dollars are used**

Redundant if it comes from tax dollars

APPENDIX E

Themes

#4 Maximum Spending Limits

Signage expense

Sign issue came up for me. Signs aren't good for the environment, but I was at a disadvantage immediately. There are so many incredible candidates, but they are so behind ... it's not fair. To make it fair, why don't we have everyone on one sign and no one has their own signs. Then its up to you to have a good website, good platforms.

Signs should be regarded as part of the scope of this by-law, as an asset that can be limited. It's a massive expense and relates deeply to the 'fairness' of an election.

If all candidates are on one sign together, everyone knows who is running. A community sign in every district to highlight who is running. You could paint over it and re-use it from year to year.

Limits should be issued for what people can spend money on. 80% of my campaign money went to signs and postcards. It would open it up, and everything would be fair. The mass production of 1000s of signs is wasteful and requires so much money.

This is a great idea in theory, but individual slogans will prevail.

Enough with the lawn posters and signs

Signs should not be allowed. They are a waste of resources. They are an eyesore. They may encourage me to vote against that person. They are a waste of money.

Stop putting up all the election signs in neighbourhoods.

Election signs should be limited to a few large signs in specified locations, signs have been routinely taken down by opposing parties, this has been going on for over 50 years and is a waste of time and money. This also disheartens candidates, workers and voters who see sign damage usually first thing in the morning. There should be more candidate debates and public meetings and less emphasis on signs and door-to-door campaigning. Too much money is raised for elections, the big two parties get most of it and this limits the exposure candidates of other parties get. Candidates should be judged on their history, work experience and availability NOT on how much money their party can raise and put into their campaigns.

The money wasted on so many signs could be better spend on campaign literature that tells potential voters something about the candidate.

Limit spending amounts

I strongly believe that limits on spending need to be strictly enforced.

Limit spending limits in relation to donation limit.

I also think capping the amount a candidate (mayoral or councillor) is authorized to spend on the election solves many other administrative problems. It will be impossible to create perfect rules to exactly cap election expenses, so you should err on the side of a smaller cap than a larger one. Some candidates with more money will inevitably find work-around, so the balance you need to try to strike is a spending cap that is large enough to reasonably cover an election bid, but not so large as to never be met. My ideal vision would be a set of rules that enable an outsider candidate to run a competitive campaign based on door knocking and phone calls.

Yes, with \$/resident limit, to keep campaigns reasonable.

There should be spending limits within each district

Just pick a number

There could be an annual fundraising amount if there is spending cap, thereby levelling the playing field for those who won't get to the cap in one year.

We have to limit money spent on campaigns. Spend far too much now.

Yes, there should be spending limits in order to be equitable

Caps and formulas for spending limits

For spending limits, a combination of the amount of voters in conjunction with district size would be ideal, as some are much larger (and expensive to campaign in for different reasons) than a highly populated (and voter rich) but small district.

	Municipal elections don't require massive spending—say 10 k.
	Yes, 10k or less for 2020. We do not want a person to win because they are well financed or wealthy. We want them to win because they are widely supported and well organized on the doorstep.
	Yes. Councillors: \$10,000 base + 0.50/voter in district. Mayor: \$20,000 base + 0.50/voter.
	\$40,000 limit for Councillor; \$100,000 spending limit on mayoralty campaigns.
	Per vote geography
	Yes- \$0.50 per elector
	I think the spending limit should be based on size for road/billboard signage. Number of resident's for lawn signage. Number of local TV/Radio stations/papers for traditional media budget. Overall the same for Internet advertising.
	Most of these questions don't have a concrete answer, and a combination of some of the selections would make for a better answer. For example no.7. There should be a dollar limit per voter, but those from a larger geographical area could be given some leeway if they can explain the added costs for running in a larger area with less voters.... the limits of spending should be somewhat tied to the expenses as well...
	Regarding question seven, I declined to choose one of those options. What I would prefer to see is an electoral-participation based metric. Maybe something like this: if only 25% of the district turns out to vote, the candidates can only spend 25% of the spending limit, regardless of their fundraising ability. Maybe that would go some way to getting people to knock on doors instead of just buying advertising and radio. And when more people are knocking on doors, more people are actively participating in the electoral process, and hopefully we can kick off a virtuous cycle.
Spending amounts based on geographic size and the number of residents	Number 7 difficult to answer - perhaps an either/or option would be helpful i.e. # residents or geographic size one option

	Expenses based on geographical size or number of people
	A similar formula should be used as the Feds use based on # of voters and size of area
	I actually think it should be a combination of geographic size and population that determines limits, but that wasn't an option.
	In determining the spending limit it should be based on both geographic size of district and number of voters in the district.
	Question 7 only allows one option, but I think it should be a combination of district size and population.
	Question 7 only allows one response, which does not satisfy my answer. It is my opinion that a spending limit for Councillors should be based on a formula using the number of residents and the relative size of the district. As it is much more cost effective to campaign in urban and densely populated areas, it is important to consider the geographic area of a district, the number of residents a district has, and their density compared to other districts.
Minimize campaign costs	While it is understandable to raise money to support a campaign, candidates should prove that they could manage a limited budget and stretch it to campaign. After all, this is their job as a Mayor after election: to make wise budget decision with a limited fund. The budget, contribution and spending should be based on geography of the district as all other variables can more frequently change. Whether there are 500 voters in one year or 1000 voters in the next, the area covered would be the same. So should be the budget allocation. Less paper pamphlets and more discussion and action will go along way. Technology these days should reduce the useless paper printing as well.
	Elections should never be about who has the deepest pockets or the richest friends. Campaign costs should be minimized to the extent possible, with more emphasis being placed on all candidates meetings, town halls and online events where voters can learn more about candidates stand for.
	Campaign costs have been reduced due to technology
	There is less need for a campaign headquarters.

	With the ride of social media there really is no more excuse for large campaign finances. We need to level the playing field and make politics accessible to all. Term limits should also be enforced.
	There could be an annual fundraising amount if there is spending cap, thereby levelling the playing field for those who won't get to the cap in one year.
	We have to limit money spent on campaigns. Spend far too much now.
Do we understand campaign costs?	What is the number, approximately, it would take to run a credible campaign? Media, social media, call Centre, translation services, ads on TV, community radio, marketing, promotion, travel time, administration... an absolute amount, per voter, factor in geography.
	The limit not be set too low that its going to hinder you from running the campaign you want to run. Some people can run this cheap and lose, some can run it the way it's supposed to be run and win. I hate for it to be put at \$15,000 if I really need \$18,000 to get my message out. With the electronic voting we have today starting too early - 40% have already voted and they don't have my information yet. How do they get all the information they need in time? You need at least one mail-out, if not two. Don't set it so low that you cannot do the job right to get the message out there.
	There could be a level at which you can play, that you don't need a lot of money. That's dependent on your public persona.
	What does it take to run a credible campaign? Whatever a federal or provincial candidate can spend, it should be the same. Consider people, territory. It could be a limit per elector or overall total.
Campaign costs for rural Councillors could be more expensive	Spending for a rural Councillor can be much greater due to travel and meeting costs and should be a consideration in setting amount. Unfortunately to use number of voters or number of residents is unfair since it creates an imbalance with urban ridings where most of the population live and thus vote.
Do not limit spending expenses	No, because one candidate might get a much better deal on signs, rental space for meetings, flyers, etc.... than another candidate who has to spend more money for the same.
	Maximum Spending Limits: Changing technology costs money, so this needs to be considered and revisited. The importance of video didn't exist 10 years ago.

Depends on the size of the district	Depends on redistributions of districts
	Elections are more expensive than ever before. Mail-outs are fractured because of changing lines. Constituencies are growing. Signs are more expensive. Changing district boundaries increase expenses because that means you are in a new area where you haven't solidified a profile yet, and that's expensive.
Equitability and fairness	If you're starting new (versus re-running) you're already so far behind and the other person has an unfair advantage.
	Sitting council is ultimately not going to want to change this, because it benefits them.
Equal spending amounts from tax dollars	Yes to limits - equal amount from tax dollars to each candidate... extra gets put back in the coffer.
Self funded amounts should be included in maximum spending limits	The personal money used should be included in any spending limit.
No spending limits, just disclosure	No spending limits, just requirement to disclose prior to election- who? How much?

APPENDIX F

Themes

#5 Disclosure

What information should be disclosed?

Issue: With the addresses blocked out of donators list, it can nearly make donations anonymous because there can be so many people named “Steve MacDonald”, for example

Yes. < \$50 = disclosed and max \$50 in cash, more than that should be cheque.

No anonymous donations

The Internet changes the idea of third party. What about “Go-fund-me campaigns?” You can you make sure people say where they are from.

Yes, disclose so we can understand and know who wants a specific ear. I.e.: developers and conflict of interest.

Developer money ... they should be broken out separately. Developers are their own group; they have a lot at stake in supporting candidates. Morally, we gave back money that developers contributed. We needed it, but we give it back

Where do the contributions come from is the number one I continuously hear. Who gave, what organizations gave, and how much.

The identity of corporate donors should be required to be disclosed, period.

All developers must be identified by name.

Disclose contributions online in real-time

Contributions must be declared online one week before the election.

Yes, the disclosure should be available before the election either by the use of technology or by the implementation of a cut-off date so they can be published before the election.

Contributions should be required to be disclosed DURING the campaign as the donations are received, not following it.

Voter turnout could be improved if we knew who we were voting for. Weekly updates for candidate spending and income would let voters differentiate candidates.

	Donations should be reported on line in real time
	Disclosures on who your contributors are, once a week candidates should have to enter their contributions. Do this throughout and not AFTER the election. After the election has no influence on public voting. The public needs the information real time to make decisions. There's enough technology to make this happen – website or something. Right now, you are declaring so close to the election. There has to be accountability. The website should be available to you as soon as you file your papers. All money should be recorded, no matter how long ago you starting collecting it. You need to keep records of all your backlog and enter that data once you have access to the website.
	Yes, report weekly during the election
Disclose contributions before the election	I think the names and occupations of any donor who contributes more than \$1000 should be published in a public record at least one week before the election in the interest of transparency.
	This should all be published within a month, if there is no election, or within a day during elections.
	Yes, disclose before election.
	Reporting needs to have a deadline close to outcome of election.
	Disclosure show before election, not after.
	It should be mandatory for candidates (councillor and mayoral) to disclose their donor list (with amounts), in advance of an election. Voters deserve to know who is donating to a candidate, and so to whom that candidate may feel obligated.
General disclosure	If there is no limit there should be disclosure of how much was spent where. If there is a spending limit I think disclosure is a little less pressing
	Yes. So incumbent can't amass war chest by raising more contributions than expenses.
	Yes, to avoid conflict of interest.
	Yes publicly report contributions

Report audited statements	I recommend that candidates report publicly their audited campaign financial records: names and addresses of donors (NS residents only), amounts of donations, campaign expenses and surplus if any,
	Yes, all candidates should report their expenses and hold receipts for one year if audited. Real penalties if they do not report.
	Submission of bank statements. Auditors?
	Hiring an accountant to do an audit would be a show-stopping barrier to people running for election
No need if there are limits or if its from taxes	If there is a limit ... do your really need to disclose?
	Redundant if all from taxes, but publish prior to election
Disclose online	A 'post election' disclosure of ALL candidates should be made available online.
	A detail breakdown should be publicly released as a csv file that can be easily analyzed.
Reporting after 60 days	Reporting requirements and the timeliness reporting. I'd prefer if I didn't have to report until 60 days after. Make it the municipality's responsibility to report it.
How are donations reported between elections?	Donations between elections, how are they reported?
In-kind contributions	We haven't discussed in-kind. Who determines how much in kind actually costs. Someone can give you access to glow signs at no costs, what is the equivalent value? Someone's services for web design, it gets fuzzier. Who determines what value and at what cost?
Donation should be made online through Municipal Clerk's Office	All donations should be made online to municipal clerks who publish them before passing on to candidates indicated.
Issues with reporting live	You can sink someone's campaign by requiring him or her to report live. I said I wasn't taking money from developers, and a development campaign donated online, I didn't know. People said - 'Hey, you took money from developers! I had to go, look and give the money back.

APPENDIX G

Themes

Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest

At all cost funding campaigns must never garner favours or influence or bias decisions made at the municipal level. Decisions must be made on merit and not on financial donations made to have unfair access and influence on any government official.

Further and more important we have to make sure that those who contribute do not get their agenda and goals met because they gave a lot of money.

HRM's current rules on campaign finance are a disgrace. Although accepting donations from vested interests is legal, the question to ask, reviewing the Mayor/Council's voting records, is "does this pass the smell test?". Questions asked in this survey are good, all going to current issues of concern to me.

In a country that has strict Federal contribution rules to protect our democracy it is a glaring inconsistency to have such lax civic contribution laws. In the Federal system no corporation can donate at all. Individuals can donate only about \$1,000. In the context of the city of Halifax where particular developers can apply to be granted literally millions of extra development rights it is important that the process be free of both actual and perceived conflict of interest.

The goal of these rules should be to discourage constituents (e.g. wealthy ones) from having unequal influence over the election; to minimize the potential for candidates, if elected, to "owe political favours" to their contributors; and to maximize the overall fairness, transparency, & accountability of the election process & our government. The election should not be about who can raise the most money or use the latest fanciest PR tricks. It should be about the fair & equal dissemination of information about a candidate & their platform so that constituents can make a responsible & informed decision.

The Mayor and Councillors must not accept contributions from big businesses and vested interests to ensure that there is no conflict of interest in council decisions.

The most important objective however is to get dirty corporate money out of the elections. There is far too much bribery, which results in things like the crown jewels (such as the beautiful and historic architecture of our municipality) have been decimated by Capitalists. Thank you for your time.

There has to be transparency in all monies received by candidates running with no Trade unions and no contractors or any party that may be working or potentially working for the City.

There is an air of mistrust around politicians these days and it is time that politicians correct this. . Also, stop the proliferation of unaffordable housing, there is enough of it. Has anyone considered building a "Blended Income Housing Unit", where everyone pays the same percent of their income for rent? Halifax / Dartmouth is not Manhattan; there are no jobs and few young people. Who is going to live in these monster condos?

When a municipality is small, the money needed for a campaign is small. But Halifax is growing. There are a lot of vested interests that vie to have sway on a Councillor's vote.

Although individuals may have conflicting interests, larger organisations like developers have more egregious conflicts since Councillors' votes can make a big financial difference to them. How is a private company (wholly owned proprietorship or partnership) with 1 or very few owners so different from individuals? Such entities could just mask the donation, i.e. what is to stop someone with deep pockets from creating one or more companies so that they can funnel money to a campaign? For instance: Who owns WM Fares? Can they donate more because they own a company?

Eliminating donations from property developers and businesses would go along way to removing appearance of impropriety (quid pro quo)

I am most concerned about property developers giving money to Councillors because the Council has final say on development projects. This has created the situation where Councillors appear beholden to developers. Whether or not that is the case we should note that the appearance of a conflict of interest is as damaging to democracy as actual conflicts. While I am sure some members of council take developer donations and do not let it influence their decisions on approving projects, the optics raise questions. For a city and a province trying to increase voter turnout, giving the impression the game is fixed will not increase participation in the democratic institutions we have including elections. Let's ban developer donations so we do not look like a corrupt backwater with the blood of nepotism flowing through our city's veins.

If a developer gives a 300 cheque and it sways how a Councillor votes, that person has some moral issues already.

We should not be enabling the favour and good will of candidates to be bought by the amount of money donated to their campaigns. The current process is OBVIOUSLY being used as a means of obtaining a feeling of obligation to those businesses, organizations and extremely wealthy developers that have their own purposes and agendas in mind. It smacks of corruption!!

In particular, given the graft and corruption rampant in HRM, there should be more scrutiny placed on contributions from developers, real estate owners etc. I do not, however, have much faith that there is the political will or the awareness/energy on the part of most voters to demand this or even protest when there are so many blatantly clear examples of inappropriate influence, shady land dealings, tax and zoning exemptions, construction delays, cost over-runs, stupid development decisions and bogus boondoggle projects (ship building contract, Bluenose fiasco etc. etc.)

I am so discouraged living in this pork barrel third-world disadvantaged municipality these days. One step forward (the library) and three steps backwards, usually.

Whether it is true or not, there is widespread belief that HRM councillors are "in the pocket" of developers. It is time to put the financial connections between HRM candidates beyond reproach.

Councillors should refrain from voting if there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest

Councillors must declare a conflict of interest of any person or organization who has contributed over \$100 to his/her campaign and who benefits directly from a proposed Council action. The Councillor would refrain from voting on the issue.

Watch for conflict of interest. Councillors should recuse themselves from decision-making.

In addition to strict contribution limits no Councillor or mayor should vote on a zoning application where that elected official has accepted any donations from a developer or that developer's immediate family.

Councillors should not be allowed to vote on any issues involving people who have contributed to their campaigns.

Councillors should recuse themselves from voting on development decisions or real estate transactions involving parties from whom they have accepted campaign donations.

I think that candidates who receive money from businesses or other non-individual entities (unions, not-for-profit, religious orgs) should be removed from decisions involving those entities. So if a candidate's most recent campaign received ANY funding from, to take a not-likely example, Adsum house, that particular candidate should not be able to vote on matters where Adsum house is submitting materials to the council for consideration. If there were a request before council for the re-zoning of property that Adsum house owned, that would be an obvious conflict and the councillor who received those funds should be recused. But ALSO if the conflict were less obvious -- say, if Adsum house submitted a statement in support of a proposal for lower bus fares to the council, that would also cause the councillor receiving funds from Adsum (which I cannot stress enough, I have chosen to be an unlikely example) to be disqualified from voting.

It should be compulsory that all Councillors and the Mayor should recuse themselves on decisions or votes that affect approvals or land transactions that involve campaign contributors.

We should not be enabling the favour and good will of candidates to be bought by the amount of money donated to their campaigns. The current process is OBVIOUSLY being used as a means of obtaining a feeling of obligation to those businesses, organizations and extremely wealthy developers that have their own purposes and agendas in mind. It smacks of corruption!!

Candidates who accept donations from developers should not be able to vote on construction projects the developers are involved with.

**Oversight and
controls to
prevent a conflict
of interest**

Controls of some sort should be in place to ensure that candidates are not motivated to support a voter's desire because of campaign contributions.

Guidelines must be created that prevent conflicts of interest or the actual or perceived "buying" of a Councillor's support on specific issues where the Municipality has jurisdiction, especially when councillors have to balance various competing interests. An obvious and troubling current one is companies/ industry sectors/ company owners involved in property development having undue influence over councillors' planning decisions as a result of donating to their election campaign finances. In addition to property development, similar examples could arise with regard to provision have recreational or community facilities, environmental protection, economic development, and transportation (public transit plus active transportation Vs. cars, roads and parking lots). These issues can require tough decisions on which we need councillors to be strategic, open-minded and fair, rather than over-influenced by commercial interests, religious groups, unions, special-interest groups, the wealthy or the influential.

There should always be strict rule surrounding funding of any public servant with the power to make decisions that affect the district, province, region, and/or country. They should also be prevented from owning stock and companies that might bias their interests or allow for alternative ways for large donations or bribes to be transferred to them.

The provincial ombudsmen's office is of little use regarding HRM specific items.

APPENDIX H

Themes

Transparency and Oversight

Transparency

I'm really happy to see our city moving to bring transparency and limits to campaign financing. I hope the province and federal government improve their own rules as well.

Residents must be made "fully aware" of whatever method is put in place.

Contribution and spending limits are overdue in HRM elections. There needs to be much greater transparency in campaign financing.

I think the main goal should be transparency and an even playing field between politicians. I don't like seeing uneven funding which leads to whoever has the most money winning and then they work to please their campaign contributors rather than average citizens.

Transparency is important!

Transparency needs to be its own bucket. Ultimately that is a goal that I would really like to see, if you're running for political office, whether municipal, provincial or federal. You're putting yourself out in the public and you need to be prepared to have your life scrutinized. Who gives you money; how you spend it ... all this should be out there.

Transparency is a must. Any/Every one must easily be able to access contribution details. Details should be made available in electronic form, not paper, this would be better for any analysis and cheaper to provide to requesters.

Thanks for doing public consultations on the issue of campaign finance. My view is that, at an absolute minimum, limits on how much a donor can contribute, transparency of who contributed, and how much they contributed are vital to ensuring a transparent democratic process that we can believe in as voters. The current system of no limits and no transparency places the mayor, every councillor, and every decision of council under a cloud of public cynicism. Democratic government cannot withstand that kind of continual cynicism. It seems to me that this cynicism is the best explanation for the obvious disengagement of electors.

This needs to happen. Transparency should be the guiding principle.

	Transparency, fairness, and accountability are desperately needed to increase the level of trust citizens have with the electoral process. The system is broken. It enables candidates to hide the money they receive from donors who do not want to be listed in the contributor report.
Oversight	There should also be a web function that records votes by the Councillor. (To see Councillor's voting history)
	Incumbent candidates voting records and spending of district funds should be available. Councillor spending in his district is not affected by an election so for example public money can be used to advertise for the Councillor during an election.
	Democracy is not cheap. Do we have to hire people to watch it?
	Oversight to insure funds are not contributed through "back door" method e.g. a company or other giving funds to a legitimate contributor. Should activities must have significant consequences.
	Finally, there needs to be real and effective monitoring of these limits. Transparency reports have to be timely, they have to be accurate, and violating the fundraising and expenditure rules needs to come with significant consequences, up to voiding election results. Thanks again for giving this important issue the scrutiny it requires.
An ombudsman is required	An HRM ombudsman is needed as well, the call tracking staff use for complaints is useless without any oversight by an ombudsman, calls are simply closed without consultation with the resident, a resident must repeatedly call until they finally give up in frustration. The ombudsman who could also review the whole campaign contribution process of HRM and the complaints therein.
Use technology for transparency	Use technology to be transparent.

APPENDIX I

Themes	Expense Disclosure
Disclose and report on expenses	Absolutely candidates should be required to publicly report expenses. Only in this way can a contributor know their contribution was used for the purpose it was intended.
	I think reporting all expenses would be helpful to others who may want to run in the future to get an idea of what the campaign might cost them as an individual.
	All money raised and spent should be disclosed.
	Reporting of spending. If we are tackling transparency, that has got to be a big piece of it.
	You should have to say what you spent it on. Do you want receipts or not want receipts?
Audited expenses will be a barrier	Show budget associated with signs, mail-outs and headquarters
	No, to reporting expenses because it will be a barrier to those considering running for office if they need to hire an accountant to do the audit.
Identify allowable & non allowable expenses	Non-monetary expense to report
	Spending Issues - Expenses: Should be a category of allowable and what is not allowable
Allow candidates to claim expenses on taxes	Allow people running to claim their expenses on their taxes.

APPENDIX J

Themes

Surpluses and Deficits

HRM should hold surplus in trust on behalf of the candidate for the next election

I would suggest that any funds not spent by a candidate be held in trust with the HRM for that candidate's next campaign. If that individual does not run in either of the next two elections, the funds would be assumed by the municipality.

HRM should hold funds in trust and write the cheques. There is no guarantee someone will run; they can just collect the money.

Any surplus contributions to candidates should be held in trust and then used as part of the aid to fund for future funding needs.

Candidates should have the option to either have the funds held in trust for potential future campaigns.

Excess funds could be used for the same candidate who files to seek office in a future election; if the candidate does not do so again, those funds could be used to defray the cost of municipal financial support should that option (2 above) be adopted.

Surplus funds should be held for any future campaigns by the same candidate, with the option to forfeit to the municipality.

Regarding unspent funds - they should be held in trust if the candidate re-offers, and if they do not, could be applied to a scholarship fund for persons entering political science or applied to municipally-run campaign schools.

Unused funds should be placed in trust and used to finance the next municipal election. If the candidate/councillor runs again in the following election those contributions are returned to them. If not those funds are used by the elections office to promote the election

Unused surplus funds should be held in trust for the next election OR the candidate should be able to use them to fund projects in her/his area

No it can be very difficult to raise funds in a short period of time. Save left over for next campaign

**Surplus funds
should be given to
a charity**

In regards to question 11 - Surplus funds - I picked Mandated to a charity in the NAME of the Contributor who gave the money - Not the Councillor or Mayoral candidate name. This will give the giver a tax receipt showing that it was not pocketed wrongly.

It could be good to disburse excess contributions to a mix of charities & non-profits that work to increase participation in democracy, such as Springtide and Equal Voice (among others). Another idea is to create a fund to help candidates from marginalized backgrounds mount campaigns, funded from excess contributions in past campaigns.

Donate surplus funds to a registered charity (previously identified and disclosed to contributors). Ideally an organization within their district if one exists, or a community service type charity like Metro Food Bank or United Way

Question 11: The charity should be selected at the start of the campaign so that all those who are giving to support the candidate know where their funds may ultimately end up.

Yes, left over donations to charity

Yes left over donations to charity no carryovers

Q.11 to a Registered Charity, not just any non-profit

**Hold surplus funds
in trust to fund
future candidates
equitably**

Probably a bad idea, but pooling unused contributions and then holding them for the next election to help fund candidates equally would be my idea on that.

I answered "in trust with the municipality" on question 11. My notion is that funds could be used to fund all candidate meetings and other events designed to familiarize residents/voters with the candidates and what they stand for.

Funds in trust and used for future campaigns, and for any candidate.

Surplus should go to those who need it to run in the next election.

Surplus funds can go to the municipality so that they can provide basic services, education or financing to all candidates who request it to help them get started on their campaigns.

	Surplus contributions should be used to support municipal candidate funding.
Surplus funds should be refunded to the contributors	Difficult to determine where excess funds should go. Based on per cent age contribution from disclosure statements, funds could be refunded pro rata to contributors.
	All surplus funds should go to help pay the City's debt, or returned to contributors.
	I selected 'returned to contributors' in Question #11, but that answer is fraught with difficulties in calculating and returning the surplus amounts evenly.
	Surplus funds pose a real challenge, especially if municipal funds are used to support campaigns. I think the most reasonable option is no municipal funds to candidates, with all surplus returned to contributors. I don't think it's reasonable for the Municipality to collect those funds, nor for the monies to simply become a discretionary fund for the candidates. I come back to setting a clear cap on expenditures: it outlines how much you can spend, and therefore how much you need to fundraise.
	In answer to Question 11 - I would propose either/both of 'Mandated to a charity' or 'Returned to contributors'. Mandated to a charity would likely involve tax receipts - which may add complexity (does the candidate claim the tax benefit?).
	It comes from the people, it should return to them. Building trust in the community is important. That would be a step in the right direction.
Surplus funds should fund the municipality's elections costs and election education	Surplus funds should go to the municipality for the public form of campaign finance.
	The monies not spent on the campaign, and collected by candidates should go to the municipality and used in the future election processes; it was donated toward the election process and that s the true use for it. If donated toward charities it could be used to influence elections based on the charities selected by the candidate's choice of charity.

	Surplus funds should go in to the government-funded portion of future campaigns.
	Q 11. I selected "in trust with the municipality". These surplus funds ought to be directed to supporting the municipality's election costs.
Surplus funds should be used in the candidate's district	Surplus funds should be added to District's discretionary capital fund (Mayor's distributed equally over all districts).
	Surplus funds could be used in next election without increasing the overall limits of fundraising, if not running money could be spent in candidates district or donated to charity.
	With regard to Question 11 I submit all funds that are kept in trust with the municipality at the end of the election period should be remitted to the Councillor for use in the municipality at the end of the election for use in the municipality before the next election.
Surpluses should not be carried forward	Surpluses should not be carried over.
	I have an issue with the 'war chest'. I think you should take your left over surplus and donate it back to the people right away, not to save it for the next time. You should start each election from zero. Clean the slate; it makes everything a fair start.
	No carry over for candidates running in next election. (You should not be able to use funds if public support is withdrawn)
Let the candidate decide on how the surplus is used	I think that if someone freely gives money to a candidate, then it should be up to said candidate to decide what happens to it, whether they pocket it or not, because it was meant for them

It should be kept and be available for any future campaign. Disposal is the problem if the candidate does not re-run, there is no party system so it cannot go there, e.g. to the next party candidate. It could be donated to another candidate of their choice at a future election or split between all candidates. That would be complicated to administer. Otherwise, donate it to some city special project in the ward of the candidate's choice. How much money are we talking about? The solution has to in alignment with that.

Use surpluses on constituency projects

I think they should go into a fund that the elected council later uses to fund constituency projects.

Use additional monies to fund enhancement projects within the candidate's district, which may otherwise not have gone forward. Projects such as beautification, parks, public spaces etc.

Surplus funds should be audited

For question 11, the surplus funds should additionally be audited by the Municipal Auditor General for accuracy and disclosed publicly. The municipality has very little accountability for their budgets. I expect more from my city.

Incumbent's surplus

Incumbents surplus, what are they already holding from the previous election?

Candidate's should not be allowed to cash out surpluses

#11 is a big question; I chose an answer, but there are many good answers. Importantly the candidate shouldn't be able to "cash out" their campaign into their own pockets.

Guidelines regarding acclimations

What happens with acclimations? There should be some guidelines around this. You don't know you are acclaimed until well into the process. What do we do with the, presumably, bigger surpluses. Can you allow for partial reimbursements to donors? If you've given a tax receipt you can't give it back.

How to deal with deficits?

How will we deal with deficits?

APPENDIX K

Themes	Other Comments
	Put campaign money into better information services:
Use websites to share information	Low maximum campaign finance would cause a more level field. Perhaps the candidates could use the Halifax.ca site to explain the platform to the voters.
	I would rather see the municipality invest in equitable information opportunities for candidates than fund campaigns. Provide open houses, a website that gives each candidate webpage to provide information and other tools that make it easier for voters to learn about candidates platforms. Far more productive than funding more lawn signs.
	Re: question 2: I don't think we should give funding to candidates, but rather that we should run a website that gives equal space to each candidate, and which is organized in a way as to maximize the convenience for voters getting information about all candidates. This is what should be paid for with public funds.
More funding to go towards citizens	I'd love to see less funding going to campaigns and more funding going to citizens! Even keel for all politicians, less bureaucracy for the rest of us!
	Federal and Provincial Jurisdictions:
Refer to precedence from the Provincial and Federal government	It is time for HRM to look at Provincial and Federal legislation in terms of who can contribute, spending limits, etc.
	A little background on how Provincial and Federal campaign contributions are managed will help clarify these questions.
	Consider rules of disclosure similar to those of provincial candidates

The province or the UARB should be setting the rules not the current council.

**Refer to rebate
system in Ontario**

I like the rebate system in Ontario where donations to municipal campaigns are eligible for a 50% rebate. I would put a limit on it of needing to be at least \$25 (to cover costs) and only up to \$300 - so it benefits those candidates who get a lot of people to donate to their campaign while rewarding those voters who make modest contributions. I'm not sure how you would limit it to HRM residents - it could be limited to Nova Scotia residents and you don't have to figure out if they are HRM residents or not. The donations get spent on goods and services in HRM for the most part, so maybe we don't care if a few rebates get sent to other parts of Nova Scotia. But I think limiting it to HRM residents would make the most sense.

Tax deductions:

**Tax deductions
on contributions**

Is this tax deductible? Tax rebate program (like in Toronto) which would increase participatory democracy because for a lot of people, the idea of participating with a small financial incentive will increase their chances of participating. Participation is declining.

If the municipality is not going to cover some of the expenses, then contributors should get some sort of tax break.

Tax deductions. People were asking me this all the time. Why isn't this an option for us? We should be able to do this. People would have given me more if it were tax deductible.

Take the money out of politics:

**Take the money
out of politics**

Put some fairness in the process so regular folks can apply not just rich connected folks with an agenda and those being bought by contributions

Thank you for this opportunity. The United States provides an extreme example of what happens when elections are dictated by who has the most money. This is happening in Canada, too, and other places around the world. Allowing money to dictate our democratic process is the quickest way to destroy the democratic freedoms and ideals that so many fought so hard for. Our elected officials have a moral, political, and ethical responsibility to all members of society and this includes ensuring that all voices have an equal say. For a discussion on why the US is a democracy for the rich, or an oligarchy: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/akbar-ganji/the-transformation-of-ame_1_b_7945040.html

The major problem in all platforms of government is money in politics. Until we change that nothing will change. I'm 25 years old and have no faith in any level of government. Please make a change.

There need to be rules that make it easier for people with no family money or corporate backers to have just as much chance of being heard and elected as a candidate with such connections and privilege of wealth

This system is broken, there shouldn't be a money component in municipal elections it only creates an advantage to those whom have money and biased decisions for favours from industry. This city is polluted, seriously under planned and sprawling out of control. All for fake progress? Open your eyes, 2/3 people didn't vote in this last election because people are tired of seeing their money wasted. We can't afford Councillors salaries and they don't deserve the same benefits of politicians. We need accountability all around STARTING FROM THE TOP

Want better voter turnout? Take the money out of politics.

You have to practice fair elections. Most of the candidates are only interested in filling their pockets and that is why people show lack of concern to the political process. We have to involve everyone in the political system we cherish and not just for a few selected or rich ones or else our democracy will die a natural death by lack of full participation.

Many candidates are members of political parties and the provincial/federal parties are using the municipal election as a testing ground for their candidates so the David and Goliath battles in municipal politics will continue and developers can still use influence at the party contribution level, lets just get the excessive influence of the developers and their leverage money out of the equation for municipal elections. The developers already have the deck stacked in their favour with planning and development allowing excessive variances on safety, and a Councillor is not allowed to appear to be assisting their residents. The residents have very little knowledge of the approval process for developments and are already at a huge disadvantage, the limits on the Councillor's ability to assist residents (who voted for the councillor under the premise the councillor would help in every way) further assists developers to run rough shod over residents and lie directly to residents. It is laughable that the planning department disallows a development yet the developer can cry foul to council and council can and will overturn the planning department's decision. The residents have no recourse on a planning decision, so Council needs to accept the planning department's decision. When the decision goes against residents, Councillors state that Planning are the professionals and their decision must be respected, the same needs to go for Council. If Planning turns down a development; city Council needs to respect the Planning department's decision, they are the professionals. The election contribution process is the start of a much-needed overhaul of the parochial 18th century HRM government.

	Large money interests corrupt the political system and must be curtailed to put balance in a democracy that has careened into a plutocracy in the last several decades and needs serious resuscitation!
	Term Limits:
Term limits	Access to new candidates
	Councillor seats turning over
	Term Limits
	Incumbent has advantage
	Democratic Process:
Democratic process	The system is daunting
	Participation in a democratic process
Election process	The Mayoral candidate's ability to collect \$10,000 per month during the campaign from campaign contributions was the most outrageous display of excess and imbalance in the election process. No one has the ability to collect a wage equivalent to their future expectations of salary, they will collect, during their application and interview process for a job and the same needs to be enforced for mayoral or any councillor candidates
	These types of changes are very important to sustain the integrity of the election process. No excuse for stalling anymore.
Restrictions on running as a candidate	I believe the way the current legislation is working it restricts people from running as a candidate.
	Also, I think those Councillors who run for MLA or MP positions MUST resign before declaring their intention to run.
Low voter turn out	If there is too low a voter count (50%-60%), new candidates should be selected, and a new election should be held until there is an acceptable voter count (61%-100%).

	What is most disheartening is the fact that a survey like this has to exist. In order to establish a society that acts fairly, you need the leader's actions dictating it first. It's easy to stay vague and pretend that political motives are inclusive, but the disenfranchisement is everywhere you look. Perfect example is the coordination of the construction projects in the downtown core during the nation's sesquicentennial.
Be engaged all the time not just during elections	Keep it simple and get out there knocking on doors to find out the real issues and not a couple of weeks before the election.... whoever is in power should be doing this all year long. No more electronic phone messages...I usually hang up. If you don't have the balls to talk to me direct...don't waste my time. If I have issues, I would like to pass them on face to face or by telephone.... not a recorded message, and only to the person running for election.
	I would like to see the "rum bottle" politics end when there is an up coming election. The general public knows when an election is coming about when badly needed projects suddenly get money to repair municipal problems. The money is never there when no election is just over the horizon. The voting public is not stupid.
Take away the discretionary spending from the Councillors	Take away the discretionary spending from the Councillors.
	Support for campaign finance accountability:
Support	I applaud Halifax for considering these types of changes, thank you.
	We strongly support campaign finance accountability. Thank you.
	There is an opportunity for HRM to move to a leadership position in this area. Let's use it!
Not concerned	To be honest, I don't see campaign spending in Halifax municipal elections as a major problem at the moment. I think some guidelines would be a good idea; however, because of the relatively small scale of municipal elections versus provincial or federal ones, I'm not very concerned about this issue at the moment