



Policy Updates to the Fair Election Fund

Budget & Policy Committee
Monday, June 24, 2024

Agenda

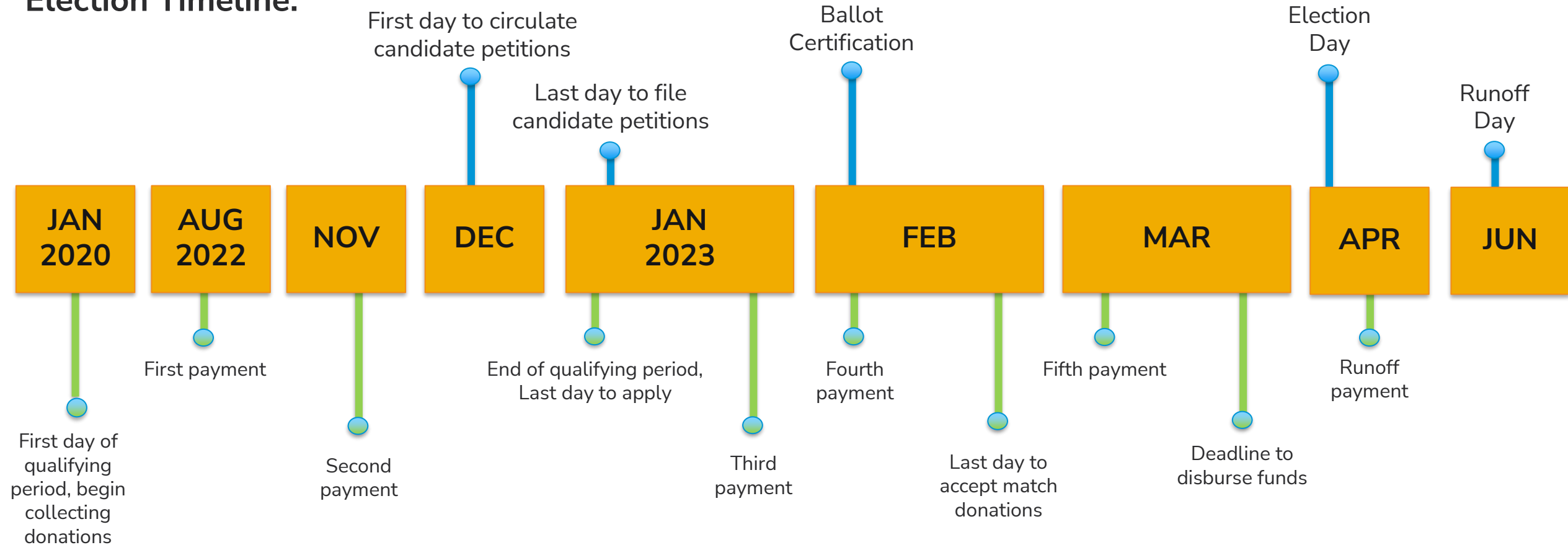
- Purpose
- Timeline of Denver Municipal Elections
- Feedback from Members of Council
- Next Steps
- Outstanding Questions
- Discussion

Purpose

After a successful launch to the voter-approved Fair Elections Fund during the 2023 Municipal Elections, a few potential improvements have been identified. Updates to municipal Fair Elections Funds after each election cycle are common in cities that have FEF's. Councilmembers Sawyer and Watson have been working to identify potential improvements and would like to implement them in 2024, during the first year of the new election cycle.

Timeline of 2023 Election and FEF

Election Timeline:



FEF Timeline:

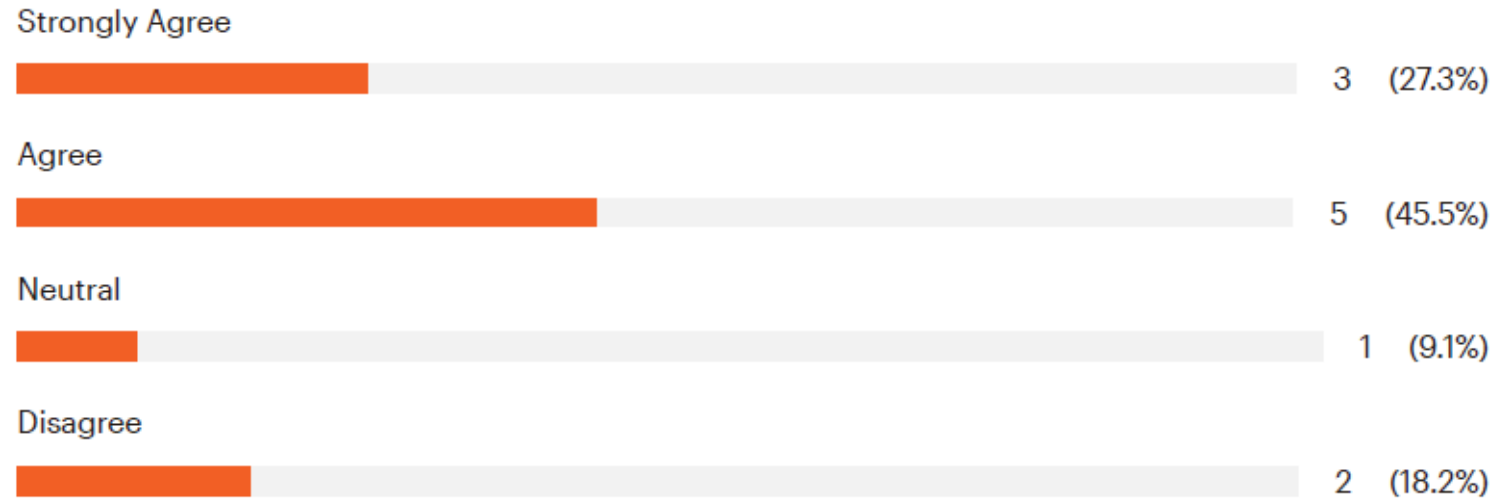
Feedback from Denver City Councilmembers

Councilmembers surveyed fellow Councilmembers on their opinions of various potential changes to the Fair Elections Fund

- 11/13 Members took the survey with CMs Sawyer and Watson abstaining due to being co-sponsors
- Should FEF continue the nine times match?
- Should unopposed candidates be eligible for FEF funds?
- Should there be clear guidelines on what FEF funds can be spent on?
- Should candidates be certified before receiving FEF funds?
- Should FEF recipients be required to participate in a debate?
- Should FEF debates be facilitated by unbiased organizations?
- Should recipients have to spend donations before spending public funds?

Nine Times Match

FEF should continue providing the nine times match:

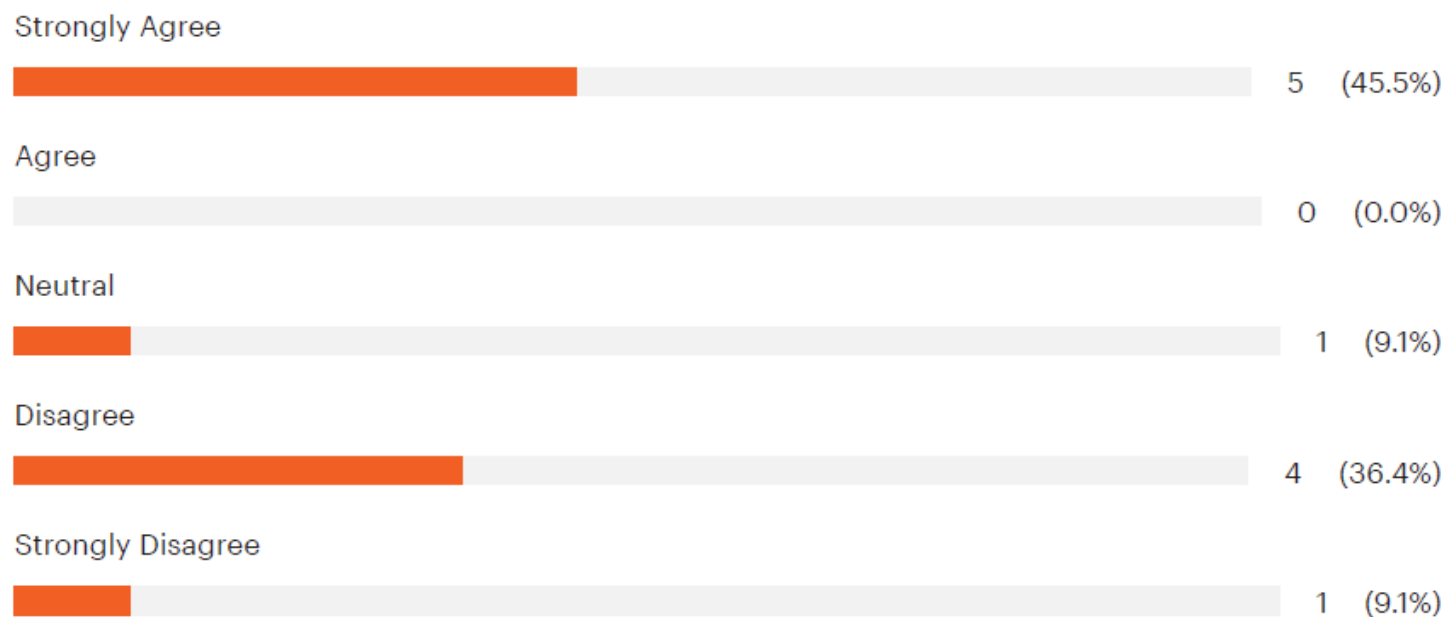


PEER CITY RESEARCH ON MATCH AMOUNTS

JURISDICTION	MATCH AMOUNT	MAXIMUM PUBLIC FUNDS DISBURSEMENT
DENVER	9:1 UP TO \$50 (\$450 IN PUBLIC FUNDS PER DONOR)	\$895,095 (PLUS \$223,774 IN RUN-OFF ELECTION)
NEW YORK CITY	8:1 UP TO \$250 (\$2000 IN PUBLIC FUNDS PER DONOR)	\$7,050,667 PER ELECTION (PRIMARY AND GENERAL TOTAL)
LOS ANGELES	6:1 UP TO \$214 (\$1,284 IN PUBLIC FUNDS PER DONOR)	\$1,071,000 PRIMARY ELECTION \$1,284,000 GENERAL ELECTION
TUCSON	1:1 UP TO \$500 (\$500 IN PUBLIC FUNDS PER DONOR)	\$172,262,520 (PRIMARY AND GENERAL TOTAL)
PORTLAND	9:1 UP TO \$20 (\$180 IN PUBLIC FUNDS PER DONOR)	\$750,000 (REDUCED TO \$100,000 DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS)

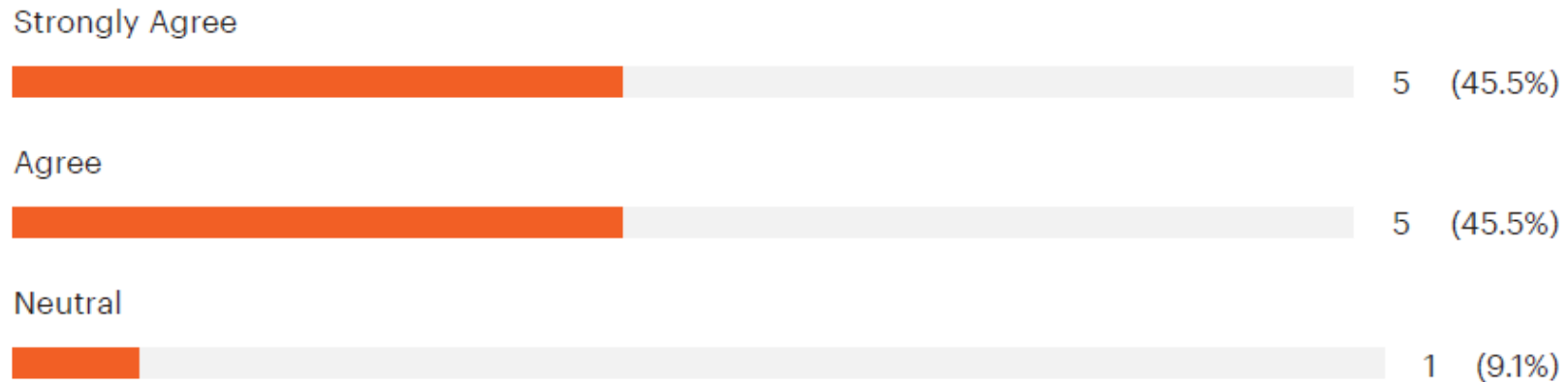
Unopposed Candidates

Candidates who are unopposed should not be eligible to receive FEF funds:



Spending Restrictions

There should be clear guidelines on what FEF funds can be spent on:

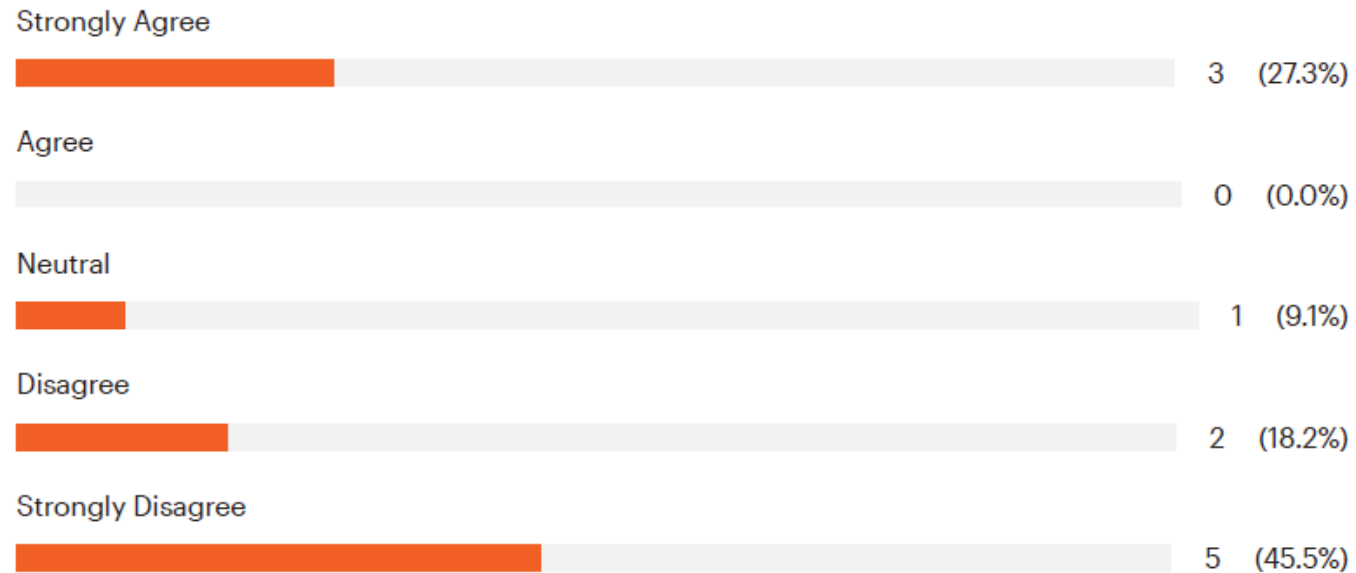


Potential Spending Restrictions & Prohibited Expenditures

- Admission to sporting events, concerts, gambling establishments or other entertainment events not specifically campaign-related;
- Alcohol of any kind;
- Automobile purchase or leases;
- Clothing, personal grooming or styling services;
- Computer hardware or software valued at more than \$250 less than two weeks prior to the election;
- Dues, Fees, or gratuities to recreational facilities unless specifically tied to fundraising event;
- Employee contracts or wages to family members;
- Expenses to defray living expenses of candidate, immediate family or any other individuals;
- Fundraising percentage fees to be no more than 5% of total fair election fund distributions;
- Funds used to promote business interests of candidate or immediate family members of candidate;
- Gifts valued more than \$50 per gift;
- Law fees for personal defense or litigation;
- Non-campaign related travel, food, drink or entertainment;
- Payments for campaign services past 30 days post-campaign;
- Payments for rent for office space owned by any family member or campaign staff's immediate family members;
- Payments of Fees or fines to the City & County of Denver;
- Relocation or housing costs for staff;
- Staff appreciation events with a combined total of over \$500
- Tuition payments;
- Used to purchase any prepaid credit or gift cards of any kind;
- Election Night parties; or
- Win bonuses.

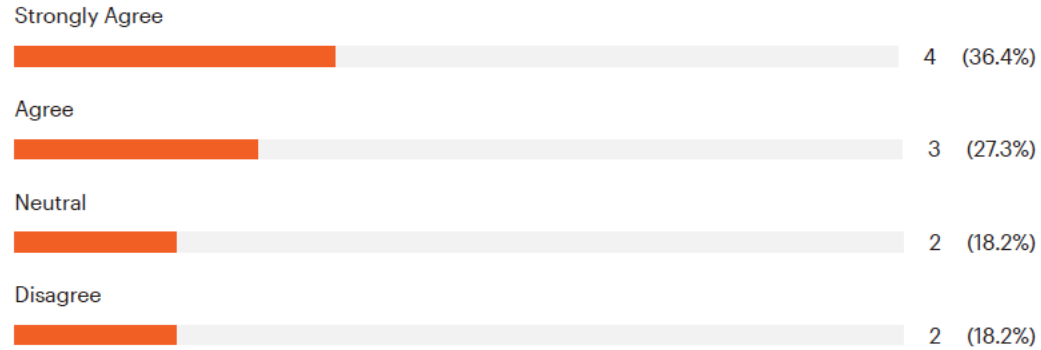
FEF Access Prior to Certification

Candidates must be certified for the ballot before receiving FEF funds:



FEF Candidate Debates

Candidates who receive FEF funds should be required to participate in a debate:

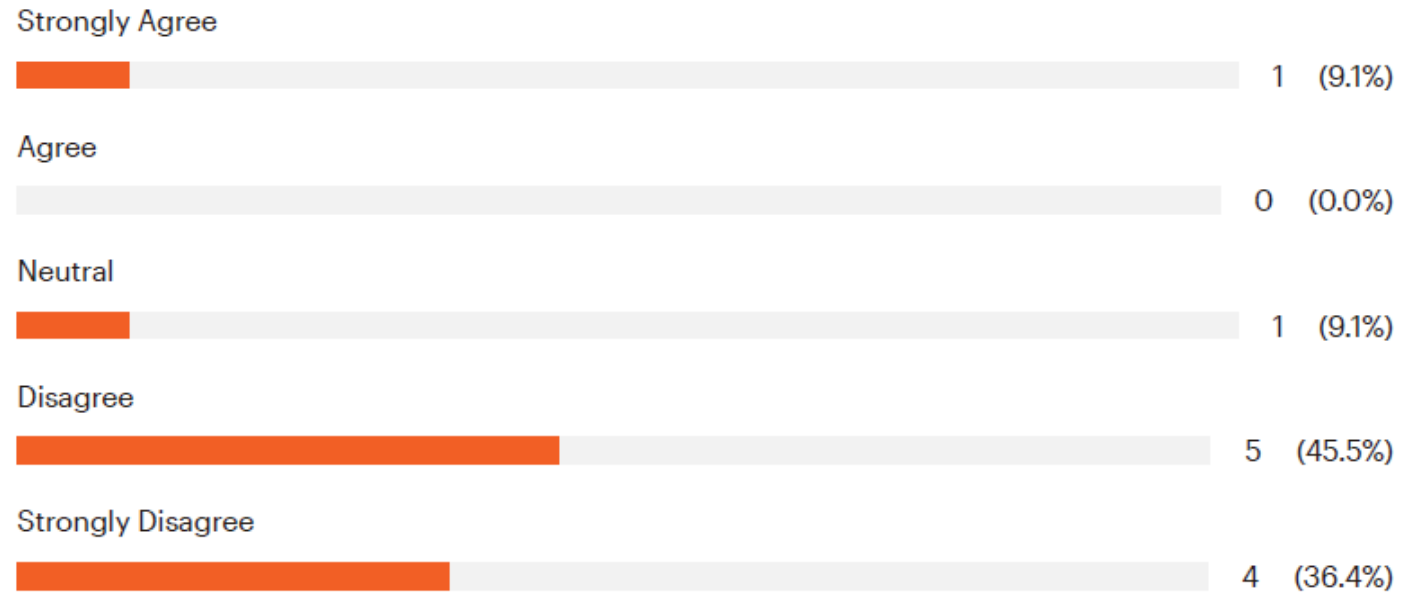


FEF debates must be facilitated by unbiased organizations/entities:



Spending Donations First

FEF candidates should be required to spend donation money first before spending taxpayer money:



Next Steps

- Consider Councilmember feedback and recommendations
- Stakeholder Outreach
- Draft Ordinance
- Council Process

Questions & Discussion