

# Prospects dim for public financing program

By Sarah Glen  
City Editor

Although Chapel Hill has led the state in publicly funding local campaigns, the town's reign as the sole provider of a municipally funded financing program could soon come to an end.

Enacted on June 9, 2008, the town's Voter-Owned Elections ordinance works to limit campaign spending and push candidates to garner widespread community support by requiring them to collect a large number of small campaign contributions.

But the N.C. General Assembly only approved the pilot program to operate for two election cycles — the second of which will be this November.

Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos said if the Chapel Hill Town Council decides to continue offering the program, it must submit a report with program data to the General Assembly after November's election and ask for a renewal.

He said the council will discuss the issue when it plans its legislative agenda in late fall or early winter, but whether the state legislature would approve such a renewal is questionable at best.

"Things are just changing over in the General Assembly," he said. "They seem to be moving in the opposite direction on these things, so the matter's up in the air."

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said that given the current makeup of the state legislature, he doesn't foresee the program continuing in the near future.



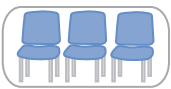



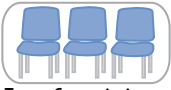



"The current Republican House and Senate are hostile to any sort of public financing of campaigns, so it would seem very unlikely," he said.

Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, said he voted for the Voter-Owned Elections program because he thought it was something that should be studied, and Chapel Hill seemed like the place for it.

"I don't know if I would be in

## LOCAL OFFICIALS DECLARE CANDIDACY FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

With the candidate filing period officially over, Chapel Hill will see the most competitive election in Orange County this November.

CHAPEL HILL	CARRBORO	MEBANE
<div> Mayor: 1 Seat <u>Mark Kleinschmidt</u> * <u>Kevin Wolff</u> <u>Tim Sookram</u></div>	<div><div> Mayor: 1 Seat <u>Mark Chilton</u> *</div><div> Board of Alderman: 3 Seats <u>Dan Coleman</u> * <u>Lydia Lavelle</u> * <u>Michelle Johnson</u> <u>Braxton Foushee</u></div></div>	<div> Mayor: 1 Seat <u>Glendel Stephenson</u></div>
CHAPEL HILL - CARRBORO		
<div> Town Council: 4 Seats <u>Lee Storrow</u> <u>Augustus Cho</u> <u>Carl Schuler</u> <u>Laney Dale</u> <u>Jason Baker</u> <u>Donna Bell</u> * <u>Jon Dehart</u> <u>Matt Czajkowski</u> * <u>Jim Ward</u> *</div>	<div><div> Mayor: 1 Seat <u>Tom Stevens</u> *</div><div> Town Commissioners: 3 Seats <u>Evelyn P. Lloyd</u> * <u>Brian J. Lowen</u> * <u>Eric Hallman</u> *</div></div>	<div> City Council: 2 Seats <u>Everette Greene</u> <u>Patty Philipps</u></div>
<div><div> Board of Education: 4 4-year term seats <u>Mia Day Burroughs</u> * <u>Kris Castellano</u> <u>Mike Kelley</u> * <u>James Barrett</u> <u>Annetta Streater</u> * <u>Raymond D. Conrad</u> <u>Brian D. Bower</u></div><div> Board of Education: 2 yr unexpired term <u>Jamezetta R. Bedford</u> *</div></div>		

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.CO.ORANGE.NC.US](http://www.co.orange.nc.us)

\* These are incumbents. DTH/ANNA THOMPSON

## VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS GUIDELINES

- To receive funding, the program stipulates that candidates must raise money on their own before accepting town funds:
- Participants can only accept contributions of \$20 or less.
  - Public grants for qualified candidates are \$3,351 for council candidates and \$10,053 for mayoral candidates.
  - Mayoral candidates must raise at least 165 qualifying contributions that total at least \$1,676.
  - Council candidates must raise at least 83 qualifying contributions that total at least \$838.
  - Two candidates, council member Penny Rich and Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, successfully used the program in 2009.

going to level the playing field for someone like myself who isn't particularly wealthy," he said.

In addition to Baker, council member Donna Bell has also announced that she will sign up for the program.

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, who used the program in 2009 and is running for a second term, said he would consider using the program again.

"Voter-Owned Elections helps break down the barriers to entry for not just candidates, but also people in the community who want to participate," he said. "Not everyone has hundreds of dollars to give to candidates."

A version of this story ran in the July 14 issue of The Daily Tar Heel.

Contact the City Editor at [city@dailytarheel.com](mailto:city@dailytarheel.com).

# The place for the people

Chapel Hill changes during the summer.

Having spent many summer nights at half-empty bars and quiet restaurants, having been able to cross Franklin Street on a Monday morning without waiting for the light and walking through a noiseless quad on a sunny afternoon, I think I speak for all of us when I say, welcome back. We missed you.

Chapel Hill just wasn't quite the same without you.

Sure, being able to find an empty study room in the library anytime we wanted was nice a couple of times. Lines were shorter, Lenoir emptier, the Arboretum more serene.

And then it got sort of depressing. And spending most of a summer cooped up in a walled-off cubicle in an ill-lit office building with no window in sight certainly didn't help. Knowing that it was 105 degrees outside everyday made it even worse.

Also, did I mention that living in Chapel Hill when neither the football nor the basketball team are playing is about as frustrating as anything I've ever endured?

Summer isn't the same. Though the buildings and facilities remain, the ideas and initiatives that make this campus great leave.

But it wasn't your mere presence that we missed so much; it wasn't like Chapel Hill turned into a ghost town this summer. We all knew where to find the crowds.

But it wasn't our crowd, *the* crowd; the crowd that makes UNC, well, UNC.

To all those who are returning home to UNC, you know what I'm talking about. And to those who will begin to call it home this week, you will learn quickly.

It might make you cringe to hear someone say that our University is special because of the people who go here. But it's deeper than that.

Our University is special because it is of the people, built for the people and by the people.



Sam Jacobson  
Opinion Editor

*"Summer isn't the same... the ideas and initiatives that make this campus great leave."*

So for those new to our campus, and even to those who aren't so new, swing by The Daily Tar Heel office this year and check out what we have to offer. I promise you, the people who publish this paper come from far and wide and have all different backgrounds. But they all share an abiding love for this University that you just can't walk away from.

The DTH office, though slightly removed from the confines of campus, is the consummate vehicle of free speech and debate.

Our proximity to campus offers all the comfort you may need. Just a 10-minute walk from the Pit, the office is close enough to the heart of town, yet just removed from our bustling campus.

And if you feel that your opinion isn't sufficiently voiced on our pages, feel free to come by or write in, and we'll make sure to include you.

So whether this is your first year on campus or your fourth, or your fifth, engage with the people of this University and you won't be sorry.

What could be better than learning and growing with the best this state and nation have to offer?

Contact the Opinion Editor at [opinion@dailytarheel.com](mailto:opinion@dailytarheel.com).

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