

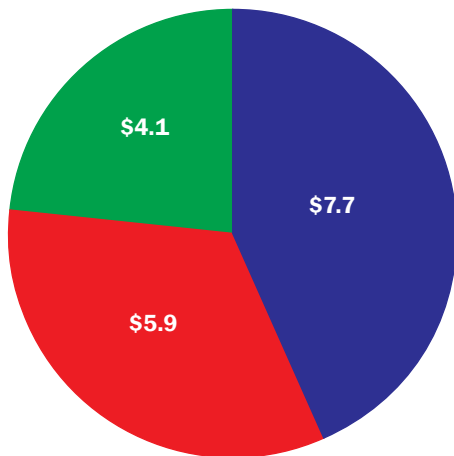
Did Incumbents or Their Challengers Benefit More From The City's Campaign Finance System in 2017?

In 2017 the Campaign Finance Board provided candidates running for municipal offices ranging from the Mayor to City Council with a combined \$17.7 million in public funds to support their campaigns. In order to receive matching public funds, candidates must raise a minimum amount of money from a minimum number of contributors (these thresholds vary depending on the office). Candidates who meet the requirements are eligible to receive matching funds at a rate of \$6 for every \$1 contributed by New York City residents. The 6:1 match is only applied to the first \$175 a candidate receives from each individual donor.

Largest Share of Public Funds Provided to Incumbents in 2017

Dollars in millions

- Funds Received by Incumbent Seeking Re-election
- Funds Received by Candidates Challenging Incumbents
- Funds Received by Candidates in Races With No Incumbent



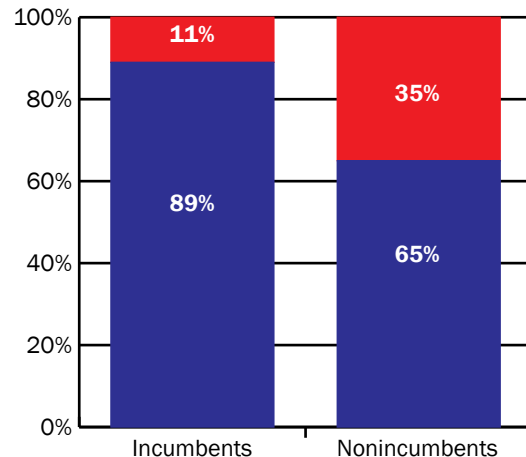
- Challengers and candidates for open seats were more likely than incumbents to have campaign donations that went unmatched because the threshold requirements were not met. Of the total amount that went unmatched, about 80 percent (roughly \$193,000) had been contributed to nonincumbents.

- Twenty-five incumbents received a total of \$7.7 million (44 percent) in matching funds from the Campaign Finance Board while 42 challengers received \$5.9 million (33 percent). Not all incumbents who were eligible chose to take matching funds. The remaining \$4.1 million went to 37 candidates in several open City Council races in which no incumbent was running.
- A total of 104 candidates received matching funds in 2017, while contributions totaling about \$239,000 to 45 candidates went unmatched because they did not raise enough money from the required number of donors to qualify for public funds.

Compared With Incumbents a Smaller Share of Nonincumbents Had Contributions Matched by Public Funds

- Contributions Matched
- Contributions Unmatched

Percentage of Candidates



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