



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 13.2.1**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**November 27, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**



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Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair, Women's Advisory Committee

**DATE:** November 2, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Candidate Contribution Rebate Program**

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**ORIGIN**

November 2, 2023 meeting of Women's Advisory Committee, Item 10.1.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality section 6  
(e) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Women's Advisory Committee recommends the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report exploring the creation of a rebate program for municipal campaign contributions for Mayor and Councillor candidates during regular or special elections held in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The report should include an overview of the legislative and budgetary framework required to enable the proposed program.

## **BACKGROUND**

One of the Women's Advisory Committee of Halifax's (WACH's) 3 priorities for learning for 2023, is a focus on women's involvement in non-traditional roles (including employment and involvement in municipal boards and committees). In keeping with that priority for learning, WACH invited women Councillors to speak to WACH at its October meeting about the opportunities and barriers faced in becoming a Councillor and serving on the HRM Council. One of the issues identified by several of the Councillors, was difficulty in financing their campaigns.

Pursuant to the discussion at the October meeting, WACH received a Request for Consideration form from Councillor Lovelace to consider recommending the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report exploring the creation of a rebate program for municipal campaign contributions for Mayor and Councillor candidates.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Women's Advisory Committee considered the Request for Consideration Form and approved the recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications identified.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risk considerations identified.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Women's Advisory Committee is comprised of 6 citizen members and 2 Councillors. The agenda, reports, videos and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Women's Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Request for Consideration Form

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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## Item No. 10.1.1

<b>Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Wednesday the week prior to the meeting)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one working day prior to meeting)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>	
<p><b>Date of Meeting: November 2, 2023</b></p> <p><b>Subject: Candidate Contribution Rebate Program</b></p>	
<p><b>Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:</b></p> <p>That the Women's Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report exploring the creation of a rebate program for municipal campaign contributions during regular or special elections held in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The report should include an overview of the legislative and budgetary framework required to enable the proposed program.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b></p> <p>There are no income tax credits available to donors to municipal candidates in the Province of Nova Scotia like those that are available to provincial or federal candidates.</p> <p><b>Outcome Sought:</b> Consideration of a candidate contribution rebate program which would enable the Halifax Regional Municipality to issue rebates to municipal campaign contributors.</p>	
<p><i>Councillor Lovelace</i></p>	<p><i>District 13</i></p>