



Officers

Amira Streeter
President

Jon Stride
President-Elect

Mark Stephan
Past President

Ted Kaye
Treasurer

Chris Howard
Secretary

Governors

Jordan Cole

Jordan Cox

Robin Denburg

Carla Kelley

Jonathan Konkol

Sam Metz

Mary Nichols

Bobbie Regan

Colleen Shoemaker

Paddy Tillett

Wynne Wakkila

Ramsay Weit

Staff

Kayla Kennett
Communications Manager

[sent via electronic mail to elections@portlandoregon.gov]

October 28, 2024

To the City of Portland Auditor's Office & the Small Donor Elections Program

Response to Complaint No. 2024-08-CC

For over one hundred years the City Club of Portland has presented programs and research that advance its mission: *"To inform our members and the community in public matters and to arouse in them a realization of the obligations of citizenship."* The mayoral forum presented by the City Club on October 8, 2024, was one among many candidate forums the City Club has presented this year, and for many past years, that serve this mission.

City Club closely guards its well-deserved reputation as a nonpartisan, honest broker of information (City Club doesn't endorse candidates, coordinate with campaigns, or feature candidates in non-election events during election years). Consequently, voters trust that the programs City Club presents are an unbiased service to them, and not intended to promote one candidate over another. If the reach of the election law prevents an organization like the City Club from presenting candidate forums of the kind that is the subject of the complaint, voters will lose a source of nonpartisan information that they have relied on for many years.

We respond to your specific questions below.

City Club responds to the following questions posed by the Auditor's Office in coordination with the Small Donor Elections program in relation to Complaint No. 2024-08-CC:

1. Describe the candidate forum event held on October 8, 2024, and the purpose of the event.

City Club of Portland held this free 90-minute nonpartisan mayoral candidate forum at the First Congregational Church to allow Portland voters to meet candidates and make better-informed voting decisions.

2. How did City Club determine how many candidates to invite for participation in the October 8, 2024, candidate forum?

Club forum policy is to invite no more than five candidates to any single 90-minute forum. This policy permits each candidate sufficient public time to answer questions within the limited time of the forum.

3. Who decided which candidates were invited to the October 8, 2024, candidate forum?

The Club program committee's two co-chairs decided whom to invite.

4. What criteria were used to select which candidates were invited to the October 8, 2024, candidate forum?

We used one criterion: Qualification for funds from Portland's Small Donor Election program as of one week before the event. We consulted the City's website: <https://www.portland.gov/smalldonorelections/all-about-2024-election#toc-mayor>.

5. Which candidates received an invitation to participate in the October 8, 2024, candidate forum?

Rene Gonzalez, Mingus Mapps, Liv Osthus, Carmen Rubio, and Keith Wilson.

6. What were the communication(s) used to promote the October 8, 2024, candidate forum? For purposes of this question, list the communication(s) and include the following:

- a. What type of communication (e.g., post on Instagram, email, printed flyer, etc.).
- b. If more than one communication was created of the same type but included any difference in content, list each of those communications separately.

- **(1) Eventbrite registration page**
- **(1) website page**
- **(1) website blog post**
- **(12) posts on social media**
 - **LinkedIn: 5 posts**
 - **Facebook: 5 posts**
 - **Instagram: 2 posts**
- **(6) email campaigns**
- **(1) media advisory**

7. For the communication(s) identified under Question 6, what was the cost to create (e.g., design, produce, provide, present, host, distribute, etc.) each communication?

\$937 in staff time across all communications; the work overlaps so segregating them is not feasible.

8. What were the costs to City Club for the October 8, 2024, candidate forum (e.g., including any advertising of the event, location rental, food or drink, staffing compensation, etc.)? For purposes of this question:

- a. Itemize each associated cost.
- b. Provide documentation for each of the identified associated costs (e.g., receipts, invoice, etc.).

\$1,650 Facility Rental (includes addition for security)—attached

\$1,260 Audio-Visual Support (estimate; invoice not yet rendered)

\$1,873 Staff Time (includes the amount provided in the answer to Question #7)

9. List and provide explanation for any additional value City Club received for the October 8, 2024, candidate forum (e.g., any discounts, donated items, or donated services).

City Club received \$435.44 in donations associated with the event through the ticketing platform.

10. Does City Club contend that the event was nonpartisan activity designed to encourage individuals to vote or to register to vote? If so, please explain how this being the purpose, or a substantial purpose, of the event, was conveyed to the public and attendees, and what actions City Club took at the event for the purpose of encouraging individuals to vote or register to vote.

City Club does not contend that the forum intent was to encourage voting or voter registration. Our intent was to educate voters about issues and candidates in a nonpartisan fashion. This intent was conveyed in materials available to the public.

Our forum was similar to other Portland forums featuring selected candidates from the 19 mayoral candidates. The hosts of these other forums include:

National Association of Minority Contractors, Oregon:

<https://events.humanitix.com/portland-mayoral-debate-hosted-by-namc-oregon>

Willamette University and

KATU: <https://www.katu.com/news/politics/homelessness-central-topic-in-katus-portland-mayoral-debate>; <https://www.katu.com/news/politics/portland-candidates-for-mayor-to-debate-on-katu-this-thursday>

Portland Metro Chamber and KOIN: <https://www.koin.com/news/politics/3-leading-portland-mayoral-candidates-debate-04252024>;

<https://community.portlandmetrochamber.com/ap/Events/Register/G9FB1OdCNCxCK>

The Oregonian and

KGW: <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/politics/elections/portland-mayor-debate-candidate-questions-kgw-oregonian/283-188e2b0c-3f92-4352-baf5-547fe350b21c>; <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2024/10/portland-mayoral-candidates-to-debate-tuesday-how-to-watch.html>

Oregon Public Broadcasting: <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/10/18/think-out-loud-portland-mayor-debate-rene-gonzalez-mingus-mapps-carmen-rubio-keith-wilson>

KPTV: <https://www.kptv.com/video/2024/09/06/mayoral-candidates-gonzalez-rubio-wilson-debate-portland-issues>