Portland Elections Commission Meeting
January 15, 2025, 7-8:30pm

PEC Members Present: Commissioners Amy Sample Ward, Norman Turrill, Cristina Nieves, Courtney Veronneau
PEC Members Absent: Commissioners Amy Ruiz, Berk Nelson, Kevin Neely, Anahi Segovia Rodriguez
Small Donor Elections Staff Present: Susan Mottet

Housekeeping

Because the regular meeting time is at the same time as a newly scheduled regular Council legislative meeting, a new day/time for the Commission meeting was discussed. Dates and times were narrowed down. A poll will be sent to members to identify a new day and time that works for everyone.

The Commission was updated on the response to the point of information request from the last meeting and the anticipated timeline.

Program Update

The Commission discussed the timing and new title for the Deputy job posting.

The Commission decided to discuss how much match caps will have to be reduced in 2026 and 2028 at the February meeting if the program continues to be funded only at the CAL target, with the promise that the match caps will be increased if the program receives more than its CAL target. A preference to have user experience research answers on the subject when discussing it was expressed. The Commission might invite Owen Saites from the City Budget Office to the March meeting if there are budget questions.

Review 2024 campaign finance data/metrics

The Commission reviewed participation data and campaign finance data from the 2024 election cycle, along with similar data to compare it to from the 2020 and 2022 election cycles. Data like this will be in the Commission's report on the 2024 election cycle. Commissioners expressed being pleased that the data shows the program, combined with new electoral reforms, is getting better at meeting metrics over time, with the caveat that there will be ups and downs in the data between Presidential/Mayoral and Mid-term/Auditor election cycles. There was a discussion about how demographic diversity in candidates can be tracked as an additional data point. Press outreach about the data was discussed.

Consideration of potential program changes

The Commission discussed a list of potential changes to the program that have been suggested so far, including which data or stakeholder engagement they would like to see at future meetings when considering whether to recommend each change. The Commission expressed agreement in making several changes, including the changes necessary to better align the Small Donor Elections code and administrative rules with contribution limits recently passed at the state level.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.