**Portland Elections Commission Meeting Minutes**
October 16, 2024, 7pm

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

**Program Update**

- Delegation of Admin Rules: The City Attorney's office says the Charter only permits the City Administrator to delegate rules to the bureau director, so they can't be delegated to the Commission. The Commission decided to recommend a delegation memo to carry that out, and that the director will issue rules with the advice of the Commission, as used to be in the Code. The vote was unanimous.
- Complaint coordination with Auditor's office was discussed. The Auditor's office has been asking advisory questions assuming in the fact pattern that something is a contribution and asking if such a contribution would be legal under program rules. Whether something is a violation often comes down to whether it was a contribution at all. If the program objected to this in the future, in addition to the approach of asking them to adjust the advisory question, the commission recommended asking their office why they changed the question format.
- Program issue: refusal of records inspection: Two candidates refused a records inspection, even though it is mandatory. One permitted it eventually. The other chose to withdraw from the program. The administrative rules don't clarify the penalty if a campaign refuses a records inspection. The commission decided to add it to the list of changes to consider, including potential clarity about which records are subject to review: The program is adding to the training advice to separate personal and campaign records. if you don't want us poking around your personal stuff.

**Estimate 2026 matching funds cost**
For internal budget negotiations starting in October, the Portland Elections Commission needed to estimate the 2026 matching funds cost. It is for the material the outgoing Mayor will prep the incoming Mayor for, via the City Budget Office. The commission created an initial estimate for matching funds for the 2026 and 2028 elections. Because the program was underfunded for the 2024 election cycle and therefore will not be able to carry forward enough matching funds to the 2026 election cycle, and because the .02% of general fund CAL target allocation has shrunk annually to less than .2% since the FY2018-19 budget, the preliminary estimate is that the program would need an additional $1 million each fiscal year on top of its typical CAL target to have a reasonable chance of not having to significantly lower the match caps.

The meeting adjourned.