Portland Elections Commission Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2024, 7pm

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

Housekeeping

Edits were proposed for and made to the May meeting minutes draft. Everyone was reminded that next month's meeting is August 27, the day of the deadline for campaigns to apply for get certified.

Program budget update

Chair Sample Ward updated the group about conversations with funders. Actual matching funds spent, along with estimates based on July's certification and fundraising trends, were compared to the Commission's estimate from December 2022.

Rulemaking Authority

The City Attorney's Office informed the program that the way they are interpreting the section of the Small Donor Elections code that shifts rulemaking authority from the Portland Elections Commission to the City Administrator due to a new Charter provision that goes into effect in January 2025, is that the shift is effective now instead of in January 2025. The Portland Elections Commission recommended finding out whether the City Administrator's office intends or wants this shift, before deciding how to respond to the choice to use this interpretation. The Portland Elections Commission will be updated with one or more potential path to resolve this.

Discuss implementation plans for the Independent Portland Elections Commission, if it passes

If the Independent Portland Elections Commission Charter amendment passes in November 2024, there is ambiguity in key terms that determine how it is implemented. To be prepared to answer those in early 2025, when it is effective, the Portland Elections Commission decided to discuss implementation options this fall and early winter to recommend to Council in January 2025.

The meeting was adjourned.