Portland Elections Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024, 7pm

Present: Commissioners Sample Ward, Turrill, Ruiz, and Segovia Rodriguez. Director Mottet and Deputy Director Lewkow.
Absent: Commissioners Nelson, Nieves, Neely, and Veronneau.

Public testimony from two members of the public

- *Mike O'Callaghan*, to request that the Commission permit video attestations for cash contributions
- *Jesse Cornett*, on the subject of getting more program funding

Housekeeping

- *May meeting minutes*: These were edited and will be circulated with the edits for the next meeting,
- *Perceived influence/bias discussion*. The Commission discussed what constitutes a perceived influence or perceived bias in serving on the Portland Elections Commission, because a member anticipates having a client that endorses in City elections, but the member will not have a role deciding who is endorsed. When Kevin Neely was appointed to the Commission, a Councilmember asked if Mr. Neely or any Commissioner works for or with an entity in a capacity in which they decide on endorsements in City elections. None did, though it was disclosed that one works with or for such entities but does not decide on which City candidates they endorse. The Commission historically has not made candidate specific decisions, but the rules task the Commission with recommending whether to appeal an appeal decision to circuit court, which would be a candidate specific decision. The process in the rules for the Commission to do this is for a subcommittee to be formed of "publicly neutral" members, a term defined in the rules. Members can use this definition to determine when, if ever, a member should abstain or recuse themselves from a Commission decision. It was agreed that the member taking on this client in these circumstances did not pose a threat of perceived influence or bias and that this member was trusted to abstain or recuse themselves if it was ever appropriate to do so in the future.

Budget update
The Council finalized the FY2024-25 budget. The Commission was updated on participation compared to its earlier estimate:

	Estimate #1		Actuals as of 6/26		
Office	**Full Funding**	**Reduced Caps**	**Full Funding**	**Reduced Caps**	**Difference**
Mayor	$3,187,500	$700,000	NOI only: 7 Certified: 0 @ $0	NOI: 7 Certified: 0 @ $0	Likely to come in under estimate
Auditor	$0	$0	NOI only: 1 Certified: 0 @ $0	NOI: 1 Certified: 0 @ $0	Likely to be exact estimate of $0
Council 1	$1,500,000	$680,000	NOI only: 8 Certified: 4 @ $262,476	NOI only: 8 Certified: 4 @ $195,793	Likely to come in under estimate
Council 2	$1,500,000	$680,000	NOI only: 18 Certified: 5 @ $214,977	NOI only: 18 Certified: 5 @ $175,251	Likely to come in over estimate
Council 3	$1,500,000	$680,000	NOI only: 14 Certified: 4 @ $326,521	NOI only: 14 Certified: 4 @ $200,000	Likely to come in close to estimate
Council	$1,500,000	$680,000	NOI only: 12	NOI only: 12	Likely to come in

4			Certified: 5 @ $283,905	Certified: 5 @ $193,579	over estimate
TOTAL	**$9,187,500**	**$4,000,000**	**$1,087,879**	**$764,623**	**Overall, likely to come in close to estimate**

Feedback solicited from candidates to enable them to communicate with more voters with reduced match caps

The ideas and feedback from participating campaigns was reviewed. The media coverage was discussed. There was agreement to revisit this subject at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.