**Open & Accountable Elections Commission Meeting**

*March 18, 2020*

Members Present: Berk Nelson, Anahi Segovia, Amy Ruiz, Amy Sample Ward, Sabra Purifoy, Serin Bussell, Courtney Helstein, Norm Turrill

7:05-7:10-Housekeeping:

* February OAEC minutes approved unanimously
* Members voiced approval for keeping the monthly OAEC meetings virtual until social distancing measures are dialed back
* Members welcomed two new members to the OAEC: Anahi Segovia and Berk Nelson. Both had their applications approved by City Council vote on March 18th

7:10-7:15-Program update

* As of March 18th, there are eight candidates certified to receive public matching in the regularly-scheduled elections: Sarah Iannarone, Carmen Rubio, Candace Avalos, Tim DuBois, Chloe Eudaly, Sam Adams, Mingus Mapps, and Seth Woolley
* As of March 18th, there were five candidates certified to receive public matching in the special election: Sam Chase, Loretta Smith, Margot Black, Dan Ryan, and Tera Hurst
* The program has distributed about $1 million in matching funds to the certified candidates
* The program received an additional $750,000 appropriation from City Council, which allowed it to fill in a significant part of the budget gap that occurred as a result of the special election

7:15-7:30-Budget/Match caps discussion/recommendation

* Following on the OAEC’s recommendation, the Director is considering lowering the match cap for the special election primary to compensate for the budget shortfall
* However, while the program now knows how much in additional appropriation it received from the City Council ($750,000), a major variable is still outstanding
* The biggest unknown variable is how many candidates will get certified before the March 24th deadline. The number of participating will determine where the Director sets the match cap
* The Director expects the match cap to be either $150,000 or $175,000, depending on how many candidates get certified

7:30-7:40-Past/current investigations discussion & recommendation

* OAEC discussed considerations to keep in mind for investigations into potential fraud, particularly if the donors in question do not speak English as a first language and/or are from an underrepresented community
* OAEC member Segovia recommended having OAE staff or a contracting translator call the donors first, as this may help put the donor at ease and feel more comfortable responding to questions. This is preferable to sending a letter first, since that can be intimidating to certain community members. But if the donor did not answer the phone, then the next step would be to send the donor a letter or a postcard

7:40-7:50-How coronavirus affects OAE program, any changes?

* OAE staff plans to not change the deadlines and the requirements, since many of these can be fulfilled while respecting the Stay at Home orders.
* However, OAE staff will email the campaigns and offer flexibility if the Stay at Home orders to pose challenges for campaigns to navigate the program