*On May 15, 2019 the Open and Accountable Elections (OAE) Commission held their second regular monthly meeting from 6:30 pm – 9:15 pm at Portland City Hall. No absent Commission members. Members of the public in attendance: Clifford Smith (Tech Project QA), Candace Avalos (Vice Chair, Citizen Review Committee), Beth Cooke (Lobbyist), Carol Cushman (League of Women Voters, Portland)*

The following topics were discussed:

## Minutes

Approved unanimously.

## Conversation on Volunteer Supervision Discussion

Trying to increase engagement in our elections process.

Beth Cooke: PCUN and other volunteer-lead groups. Wants to ensure it’s a paid campaign staff, not just volunteers. Need people to organize others. Important to UFCW, value added. UFCW loans out a staffer for a field day to organize volunteers.

Commissioner Fritz: An affluent group, union, business, corporation, person, could hire unlimited coordinators full time. Some candidates would be limited by how many campaign workers they can hire to do the bulk of their campaign. The better-connected campaigns would benefit from this.

Beth Cooke: Ramon Ramirez of PCUN believes it’s very important for them.

Amy Ruiz: Unless they are coordinating volunteers these staffers couldn’t do anything.

Serin Bussell: Rep Mitchell was loaned a fulltime field director.

Daniel Lewkow & Ricardo Lujan: A volunteer coordinator could be a broadly defined role overseeing volunteers who are fundraising. Engaging in voter contact.

Courtney Helstein: Can we define why we think this is a problem?

Amy Sample Ward: The loophole could be presented in a way that provides a loophole for wealthy.

Beth Cooke: Carving out fundraising as something they cannot be supervising is a possible concession. Fully removing this would be going against the negotiations.

Commissioner Fritz: Recalls that the $20,000 cap was the concession, the volunteer supervision would be subject to the cap in her memory of the negotiations.

Amy Ruiz: Could we specify a non-profit organization can.

Serin Bussell: The aspirations of this program may be to help people who don’t go through trainings, know the connected players, if that’s the case that it’s the aim then those people will not use this loophole. Wants to propose some language more clearly defining the number of hours for volunteers or adds a financial limit to it or a behavior parameter.

Ricardo Lujan: Volunteer activity only includes “X, Y, and Z.”

Courtney Helstein: Sometimes you have to rely on the organizations for smaller races for school board races, etc. We have to be careful about how this policy could become the blueprint for similar legislation up and down races in the future.

Ricardo Lujan: It’s not fully the decision of the Commission.

Commissioner Fritz: We’re going to make amendments again in the future – it is worrying that a large corporation or other stakeholder could continue to try to buy the election using this loophole. There may be concerns in the City Council about it as well.

Serin Bussell: If anyone wants to comment from the public, they are welcome to.

Proposed to the Commission that the Committee on Rules give Commissioner Fritz suggestions on how to move forward on this. Commission agrees to this next step.

## Placement of the Program

Commissioner Fritz: Announced she isn’t running again in part to again oversee the program. One of the amendments is to keep the program in her office through December 2020.

## Recommendation on Amendments

*See* [*amendment proposal*](https://www.portlandoregon.gov/OAE/article/732362)*.*

Amy Ruiz proposed adoption of amendment recommendation, Norman Turrill seconded. Passed unanimously.

## Technology Update

Susan Mottet: Our initial Quality Assurance (QA) hire didn’t work out because of scheduling challenges. The issue was brought up at the Work Session in the City Council. Commissioner Hardesty brokered a good agreement on it. It was decided the original QA would not write a report. The program staff discovered such a report was, indeed, written when *The Oregonian* made a public records request for the report. Cliff Smith, the new QA, was in attendance at this meeting.

Amy Ruiz: As soon as it is possible, please share the TOC report (need be, waiting for public records request). Expressed concern that the full picture of the technology project be out there for the press, not just the QA report disparaging aspects.

Serin Bussell: I attended the Work Session, in a former life I worked in procurement. It takes a strong, smart, person to stand up and stop something rather than cover it up and have it cause problems down the road. It was caught early and will ensure we have someone as QA who can deliver to us. Unfortunately, there are some on the Council who were really not supportive of people doing their job and doing their job well. They didn’t like it being brought to their attention when they should have been grateful for it.

Susan Mottet: If we think of something we will let you know.

Amy Ruiz: They are calling round City Hall.

Daniel Lewkow: We could setup a surrogate Commissioner or two to speak about the program.

Ricardo Lujan: Can we do a public statement as a group? Notifying the staff. I would hesitate putting Commissioners on the spot and portraying their take as that of the entire Commission.

Amy Sample Ward: Once discussed in a public meeting, members can be deputized to speak about it.

## Filling the Vacancy on the Commission

Susan Mottet: We are trying to reflect the city’s diversity which one candidate was not ideal considering the mandate that the Commission reflect the city as best as possible. We also cannot have a Political Director of an organization that endorses in elections so our initial applicants were ideal. We are continuing to solicit applicants and encourage others to do so as well.

## Rulemaking Process

*See* [*rulemaking document*](https://www.portlandoregon.gov/OAE/article/732359) *for notes on changes and commentary on updated version of the draft rules from OAEC members and members of the public in attendance.*

Serin Bussell suggested that down the road the OAEC revisit the in-kind contribution limits.

## Motion to Extend the Meeting

Made by Amy Ruiz, seconded by Courtney, passed.