**Open & Accountable Elections Commission Meeting**

*May 20th Meeting Agenda*

Present: Serin Bussell, Berk Nelson, Norman Turrill, Ricardo Lujan, Courtney Helstein, Sabra Purifoy, Amy Ruiz, Amy Sample Ward, Anahi Rodriguez, Susan Mottet, Daniel Lewkow

Absent:

1. **Program Update**
   1. Review April OAEC meeting minutes for approval
   2. Number of candidates running under OAE
   3. Number of donations collected and processed
   4. Total dispensed by race

* Minutes for April meeting unanimously approved
* Core data points from the 2020 Primary were
  + Sixteen candidates in the special and regularly-scheduled elections were certified in their respective primary elections, and five candidates who were certified under OAE will be in the runoffs elections
  + Eight candidates were certified to run under OAE in the special election. Only one candidate who applied did not meet certification.
    - Ronault Catalani was the candidate who was declined certification. His campaign had many donors who it is questionable about whether they actually donated, and attestation docs that might have been forged. After the original decision to deny certification, he filed a motion for reconsideration but did not appeal after the motion was denied

1. **Budget Update**
   1. Amount OAE saved from the Primary
   2. Amount OAE will need for the runoffs
   3. Amount staff anticipates receiving funding for in next budget
   4. Anticipated budget forecast after November 2020

* The program distributed less than $1.7m in matching funds for all races
* In terms of Runoff costs, staff expects a maximum of $456k in the Mayoral race, $480k in the race for Commissioner #2 and $480k for Commissioner #1. That would be less than $1.5m for the Runoffs
* Staff anticipates the entire 2020 cycle costing less than $4m in matching funds. OAE will likely have around $800k after November towards the 2022 races
* OAE will return the $750k allocated by the City in early-2020
* The 2020 proposed City budget has OAE funded at $1.281m, with the 6% reduction from the across-the-board cut that City Council requested from every office.
* OAE has requested full funding in next budget

1. **Media & Outreach Update**
   1. Review of relevant stories covering OAE, or any expected stories that staff should prepare for
   2. Brief synopsis of the post-Primary framing of OAE work

* It is possible that a few articles may emerge about how different candidates have violated law
* OAE received a complaint against Mayor Wheeler for not reporting every fourteen days, which is required in code for non-OAE candidates.

1. **Miscellaneous** 
   1. Update about discussed challenges to certification decisions
   2. Update about next few months
      1. Upcoming Audit
      2. User Interviews & Analysis
      3. Status of OAE’s management if the Commissioner #1 race is decided on May 19th

* OAE staff will be conducting an internal audit of the program, as required by law. The Election Aids will help lead that effort
* The OAE Commission will need to issue a report after the first cycle. Staff can help pull the details together
* OAE staff is pursuing a small contract with user expert to conduct interviews with candidates, vendors, campaign officials, etc.
* Currently, the OAE code houses program in the Commissioner #1 office. Commissioner-Elect Rubio will be in charge unless code is changed. The OAE Commission will need to recommend to City Council where to move it
  + Certain OAEC members are interested in keeping stable leadership instead of transitioning from one office to another. Commissioner Lujan was hoping to bring Commissioner-Elect Rubio into the conversation to gain her thoughts on the topic. And there was interest in an amendment to the Charter to make the office independent of any Commissioners.
  + OAEC members expressed support for scheduling a full call to discuss this topic at a later point