



P O R T L A N D
CITY AUDITOR
Elections

August 27, 2020

Charles Swindells
451 NW Skyline Blvd
Portland, OR 97229

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY
charlesswindellspdx@gmail.com

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Campaign Regulation Complaint No.: 2020-29-CS
- Violation and Civil Penalty -

Dear Charles Swindells:

On July 29, 2020, the City of Portland Auditor's Office received the complaint named above, alleging campaign contribution violations under [Portland City Charter Section 3-301](#) and corresponding [Portland City Code \(PCC\) Section 2.10.010](#). Specifically, the complaint alleged that the Friends of Ted Wheeler campaign's receipt of contributions made by you exceeded campaign contribution limits and thereby violated City campaign finance regulations.

After an investigation, I find one violation of City campaign regulations. I am issuing you a fine in the amount of \$1,000. A corresponding fine in the amount of \$1,000 is also issued to Friends of Ted Wheeler for this complaint, as addressed in Complaint No. 2020-29-TW.

Complaint: Violation of City Campaign Finance Regulations

Aggregate individual contributions exceeded contribution limits

Complaint No. 2020-29-CS alleged you made two contributions to Friends of Ted Wheeler in the same elections cycle that totaled \$5,500 and violated campaign contribution limits for the current elections cycle.

City campaign finance regulations limit contributions to a candidate from an individual to \$500 during the applicable current election cycle. See [City Charter Section 3-301\(a\)-\(b\)\(1\)](#) and [PCC Section 2.10.010 A.-B.1](#). On May 4, 2020, the City Auditor's Office began enforcing these provisions,¹ finding violations for aggregate individual contributions exceeding \$500. Candidates qualified to appear on the ballot

¹Although passed by voters in 2018, regulations regarding campaign contribution limits were enforced beginning May 4, 2020, following recent court decisions. For recent court decisions, see Oregon Supreme Court, *Multnomah County et al v. Mehrwein et al* (Case No. 5066445) and Court of Appeals Order to vacate and remand for reconsideration, *In the Matter of Validation Proceeding to Determine the Legality of City of Portland Charter Chapter 3, Article 3 and Portland City Code Chapter 2.10 Regulating Campaign Finance and Disclosure* (Case No. A171435).



for the May 19, 2020 Primary Election were given notice on April 29, 2020 of the change in law and the new enforcement date.²

For candidate Ted Wheeler, the current election cycle runs from July 6, 2016³ until the date of certification for the results of the November 2020 election. A review of the Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting (ORESTAR) revealed the following transactions during this timeframe between you and the Friends of Ted Wheeler campaign:

Date	ORESTAR Transaction ID	Amount	Total Contribution Overage	Details
1/7/2020	3348942	\$5,000	\$4,500	Violation Exempt: Received prior to 5/4/2020 enforcement date.
6/8/2020	3502971	\$500	\$5,000	Unlawful

Based on the transaction information detailed in the table above, I find there is a violation of City campaign finance regulations based on the June 28, 2020 contribution of \$500.

Penalties

The City campaign finance regulations require financial penalties following violations of campaign contribution limits. In particular, each violation of City Charter Article 3 and corresponding City Code Chapter 2.10 requires a fine of “not less than two nor more than twenty times the amount of the unlawful Contribution or Expenditure...”⁴ In determining the required penalty within the range allowed, I considered the following factors: This was the first instance of an isolated violation occurring in the same election cycle, the cooperation of the parties with the investigation, the amount of any penalties issued in similar circumstances, and the City’s definition of Elections Cycle differs from the State of Oregon’s. Based on these factors, the fine issued is the lowest amount allowed, or two times the unlawful contribution of \$500, resulting in a total fine of \$1,000.

Charles Swindells shall pay \$1,000 to the City Auditor’s Office by September 28, 2020.

NOTE: Late payments for fines may be subject to an increase in fee.

Payment must be postmarked by the due date and can be sent by mail to:

City of Portland Auditor’s Office
 1221 SW 4th Ave, Rm 130
 Portland, OR 97204

Appeals

² See the December 29, 2020 email notification sent from the City Elections Office to candidate Ted Wheeler with email subject line, “City of Portland campaign contributions to be enforced May 4, 2020.”

³ July 6, 2016 is the date the last mayoral election results were certified.

⁴ See [City Charter Section 3-305\(b\)](#); see also [City Code Section 2.10.050 B](#).

Pursuant to PCC 2.10.050 I., an appeal may be filed with the Multnomah County Circuit Court within 30 days of the issuance of a decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louise" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hansen".

Louise Hansen
City Elections Officer