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190598

Ordinance

Add Accessibility of Candidate Debates and Forums Code and amend Open and Accountable Elections Program Code to make the program fairer, simpler, easier to navigate, and better optimized to achieve program goals (add Code Chapter 2.09 and amend Chapter 2.16)

Passed

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. Council adopted the Open and Accountable Elections program in December 2016.
2. The Open and Accountable Elections program provides candidates, who demonstrate broad community support by collecting many small qualifying contributions from Portland residents, with matching dollars from the City's Open and Accountable Elections Fund if the candidates agree to follow program rules.
3. The intention of the program is to reduce actual and perceived corruption by reducing reliance on large contributions by campaigns. This will also allow candidates to engage with individuals from a variety of backgrounds and neighborhoods, which will ensure that the priorities and concerns of all individuals have the opportunity to be heard and increase the participation of all Portlanders by increasing the value of small donations.
4. The program was launched for the 2020 elections and is currently available for candidates who plan to run in the 2022 elections.
5. The following amendments are based on recommendations from the Open and Accountable Elections Commission, which oversees the program and is tasked by Code to make recommendations to Council of amendments to improve the program after each election cycle. The Open and Accountable Elections Commission received feedback from program users, community organizations, and the public for how to make the program fairer, simpler, easier to navigate, and better optimized to achieve program goals. It then evaluated the feedback along with quantitative data and the

Changes

[Ordinance Number 190598](#)

December 10, 2021

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Introduced by

[Commissioner Carmen Rubio](#)

Bureau

[Open and Accountable Elections](#)

Prepared by

Susan Mottet

Date Prepared

October 26, 2021

Requested Agenda Type

Regular

Changes City Code

administrative needs of the program to issue the recommended amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- A. Add Code Chapter 2.09, Accessibility of Candidate Debates and Forums, as shown in Exhibit A.
- B. Amend Code Chapter 2.16, Open and Accountable Elections Program, as shown in Exhibit B.

Documents and Exhibits

 [Exhibit A](#) (18.17 Kb)

 [Exhibit B](#) (67.65 Kb)

An ordinance when passed by the Council shall be signed by the Auditor. It shall be carefully filed and preserved in the custody of the Auditor (City Charter Chapter 2 Article 1 Section 2-122)

Passed by Council
November 10, 2021

Auditor of the City of Portland
Mary Hull Caballero

Impact Statement

 [Impact Statement](#) (22.98 Kb)

Budget Office Financial Impact Analysis

No immediate fiscal impact. The amendments provide authority for the Portland Elections Commission to define and determine several terms through administrative rules, including allowable contribution, in-kind contributions, seed money contribution, which matchable contributions from the same Matchable Donor to two or more candidates running for the same seat will be matched. The amendments also change the name of the fund from the Public Elections Fund to the Small Donor Fund, which will require updating the Fund Statement of Purpose.

Agenda Items

789 Regular Agenda in [November 3, 2021 Council Agenda](#)

Passed to second reading

Passed to second reading November 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

806 Regular Agenda in [November 10, 2021 Council Agenda](#)

Passed

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Absent

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Absent

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea