

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Creates 2.09 of the City Code, Accessibility of Elections, and amends Chapter 2.16 of the City Code, Open and Accountable Elections Program

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to create a new Chapter of code, 2.09 Accessibility of Elections, and substitute the existing Chapter 2.16 Open and Accountable Elections code (originally passed in December 2016) with a series of amendments. These changes have been officially recommended by the Open and Accountable Elections Commission (OAEC), which is tasked by code to evaluate the performance of the program and recommend to City Council amendments to the code to improve the program and keep it relevant within the existing campaign finance climate. The OAEC made these recommendations after collecting both qualitative and quantitative feedback on the program's performance from former candidates, campaign staff, campaign treasurers, community organizations, and grassroots donors who engaged with the program in the 2020 elections, along with members of the public. Stakeholders were also consulted prior to making recommendations. Some changes have been delegated to the Open & Accountable Elections Commission.

These amendments will make the Open and Accountable Elections program more efficient, more responsive, easier to navigate, and fairer for the candidates and groups that utilize it. They will reduce the regulatory and administrative burdens on campaigns and stakeholders that are working with the program as well as the City itself. Critically, the changes will help better achieve the goal of reducing actual and perceived corruption.

If the City Council adopts these recommendations, it will allow OAE enough time to implement the changes ahead of the 2022 elections with minimal disruption to the candidates, organizations, and grassroots donors considering utilizing the program.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

No change impact the program's budget.

Community impacts and community involvement:

These amendments were recommended by the Open and Accountable Elections Commission. The Commission solicited and took into account the feedback of stakeholders and the Voice for All Portland coalition which helped pass the program into law in 2016. The program conducted user experience research to survey and interview program users, including participating and non-participating candidates, campaign staff and volunteers, treasurers, donors, and other electoral stakeholders.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
- NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount