

**Special Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission  
Minutes of April 8, 2021**

**CEC members present:** Seth Walsh, Constance Hill, Terry Rath, and Raynal Moore

**City representatives present:** Christine Zimmer, Law; Zach Southwood, Law; Linda Smith, Law; and Jill Robb, Law

**Old Business:**

**1. Approval of March 11, 2021 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Rath moved for approval of the March 11, 2021 minutes, and Ms. Moore seconded. A vote was taken, and the March 11, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

**1. Discussion of new advisory opinion on campaign conversion accounting.**

Ms. Zimmer led a discussion regarding questions that the Law Department received concerning the application of the March advisory opinion with respect to conversion of campaigns. Ms. Zimmer explained the applicable reports which are required to be filed, the dates when such reports are required to be filed, and the dates when completion of return or donation of excess contribution related to conversion must be completed. Ms. Zimmer also explained that the definition of “Conversion Date” set forth in the previous advisory opinion requires revision. Ms. Zimmer answered questions from commission members regarding compliance with the reporting deadlines and the accounting process. Further discussion was held regarding the required proof for disposal of excess funds.

After discussion, Mr. Walsh made a motion to substantially approve the advisory opinion with the revisions of:

1. Reports Required to be Filed – language for the definition of (the “Conversion Date”)
2. Calculation of Excess Funds - requirement of proof for return of excess contributions by providing a copy of the check or check number.

Ms. Moore moved to approve the advisory opinion and Mr. Rath seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the advisory opinion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Walsh questioned why the City does not require a pre-primary report from mayoral candidates and requires only a post-primary report from the winners. Mr. Southwood explained that those requirements are set forth in the Charter and Ms. Zimmer explained the basis for the requirements.

## **2. Modification of Cincinnati Elections Commission Rules**

Mr. Southwood led a discussion regarding Rule 14(D), explaining that the rule regarding LLCs had changed with the November 2018 amendment to Article XIII, but the change is not reflected in the current CEC rules. The change is now reflected in the CEC rules pursuant to the request made at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to mirror the language in the Charter for consistency.

Mr. Southwood discussed Rule 14(A) regarding in-kind contributions. He explained that this rule is an attempt to codify and make very explicit what has been the practice for CEC. Basically, in-kind contributions are contributions. Ms. Hill posed the question about how an excess contribution should be handled when it is an in-kind contribution. Mr. Southwood explained that an excess in-kind contribution should be treated the same as a regular contribution.

Mr. Rath moved to approve the revised Rule 14 and Ms. Hill seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed.

### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38p.m.