

**Regular Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission  
Minutes of February 13, 2025**

**CEC members present:** Marucs Bethay, Eric C. Cook, Sally Krisel and Terry Rath.

**City representatives present:** Ian Doig, Law; Teninnah Ross, Law

**Old Business:**

**1. Approval of the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes**

Member Krisel moved for approval of the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Bethay. A vote was taken and the September 12, 2024, minutes were approved.

**New Business:**

**1. Discussion of the 2025 Election Campaign Finances Reporting Deadlines**

Ian Doig provided the members with a draft of the proposed “Summary of the City of Cincinnati Charter Regarding Procedures for Candidates in the 2025 Mayoral and Council Election”. Some information was added included the 2025 Election Timelines chart. The chart includes both CEC filing deadlines and submissions due to the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

Ian asked for a motion to publish the 2025 Election Timeline on the website. Member Rath made a motion to publish the timeline on the website. Member Krisel seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Ian Doig added that the CEC could put forth some training for potential candidates coordinated with the Board of Elections. Member Krisel added that it would be helpful due to the difference in the filing deadlines. Member Rath also stated it would be a good idea. Ian Doig will investigate the opportunity of a possible financial reporting training. He will update the CEC at the next meeting.

**2. Discussion of the CEC Website Updates**

Ian opened the discussion sharing Ian shared the current website with the members. He noted that meeting list, tab for information on candidate deadlines have all been updated. Ian will continue to update the website and would like to know if the CEC members have any additions or ideas to add.

Terry Rath asked if potential candidates came to the website where would they find “Information for Candidates”? Ian shared the website and how it is found on the page.

Sally Krisel posed a question regarding the “Important Dates” section asking does it include a chart for the filing dates for candidates for the CEC as well as the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Ian showed the 2025 Council Election Timeline that was placed in the recent report. Terry added that it would be more accessible to have the timeline on the website. Ian agreed and will add the timeline to the website. Ian asked the CEC to reach out if they see any additional changes. Terry added the website looks great but will look through it again.

### **3. Approval of the 2025 Meeting Calendar**

Ian opened a discussion noting that this agenda item needs no motion if the dates remain the same. Ian noted that the dates are already set by law for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Ian asked the CEC if there are any dates they would like to change.

Sally Kristel noted that maybe we should look at filing deadlines. Ian noted the next filing date is May 13<sup>th</sup>. Terry suggested we change the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting date to Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Terry Rath made a motion to move the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting date to May 22, 2025, at 4pm. Sally Krisel seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Terry Rath noted the filing deadline for December is after the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Terry Rath to change the meeting date from December 11<sup>th</sup> to December 18, 2025, at 4pm. Motion was seconded by Ms. Krisel. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Sally Krisel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rath. A vote was taken, and the meeting was adjourned.

#### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2025

#### **Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23pm.

**Special Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission  
Minutes of May 20, 2025**

**CEC members present:** Marucs Bethay, Eric C. Cook, Nick Klingensmith, Sally Krisel and Terry Rath.

**City representatives present:** Ian Doig, Law; Teninnah Ross, Law

**New Business:**

**1. Discussion of 2025 Post-Primary Campaign Finance Reporting Deadlines**

Ian Doig started the presentation sharing a PowerPoint presentation. He also noted that what is being reviewed is not official. Ian started with a quick overview of the Duties of the Commission. Ian Doig shared the suggested language for motion. At the end of the discussion, the CEC can make a motion that there are “no issues” identified with the reports or “are issues” identified with the report.

Ian began to review the disclosure for Cory Bowman’s Campaign. After reviewing the data, no overcontributions were identified.

With no questions, Ian moved on to Aftab Pureval’s campaign. Sally Krisel posed a question regarding an “anonymous” donation. Ms. Krisel asked if “anonymous contributor” is considered complete. Ian responded that as long as the candidate has complied with the State’s rules for listing names and a best effort has been made.

Ian continued to review Aftab Pureval’s report. He noted that there were several overcontributions. Ian also addressed an overcontribution for CODE PCE. Ian noted that the contribution limit for a PAC is \$2700. The Commission concluded in an advisory opinion from March 14, 2017, that PCE’s should be treated as a personal contribution and not a PAC. Therefore, the donation from CODE PCE for \$2700 presents an overage of \$1600.

Ian Doig noted the next steps would be to notify the campaign of the overages by certified mail. The candidate will then have seven (7) days after receipt of the letter to correct any overages.

Nick Klingensmith asked if the candidates could be notified through an informal process prior to the CEC meeting. Ian suggested we follow the rules of the Charter and present the reports to the CEC allowing the CEC to take a vote on notifying the campaigns.

Marcus Bethay made a motion that the CEC has received the report of Cory Bowman and has identified no issues and accepts the report as complete and accurate. A vote was taken, and the report was accepted.

Marcus Bethay made a motion to conditionally accept the report of Aftab Pureval and extend the timeframe to 14 days from receipt of the letter to address the inaccuracies of the campaign filings. Mr. Rath seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and motion passed.

Sally Krisel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm.

# **Cincinnati Elections Commission**

## **Review of Updated 2025 Post-Primary Campaign Filings**

***Please Note:*** The findings contained in this presentation are preliminary and administrative in nature. They are provided for informational purposes only and do not represent the official findings, decisions, or determinations of the Administration or the Cincinnati Elections Commission.

# Duties of the Commission

- Charter Article XIII, Section 4(d):
  - If the commission makes a preliminary determination that a report filed with it is incomplete, inaccurate, or contains an overcontribution it shall conditionally accept the report and by certified mail notify the filer of its determination.
  - Within 7 days of receipt of the notice, the filer may submit an addendum that corrects the deficiency or indicates the refund or return of an overcontribution. The commission may grant an extension to file the addendum. **If the filer fails to submit an acceptable addendum, the commission shall conduct further proceedings in accordance with subsection c.**

# Duties of the Commission

- Charter Article XIII, Section 4(c):
  - Making a preliminary determination that a report filed with it is complete and accurate, and does not indicate any overcontributions
  - Immediate notice to a person alleged to have violated this Article
  - Holding a hearing that meets due process requirements for the alleged violator within 30 days of receipt of the notice
  - Sending to the alleged violator and the complainant within 30 days of the end of the hearing a written decision on the alleged violation.

# Suggested Language for Motions:

- If there **are no issues** identified with the reports:

“I move that the Commission, having determined that all potential overcontributions have been corrected, accept the updated reports of Mr. Pureval as complete and accurate.”

- If there **are issues** identified with the reports:

“I move that the Commission conditionally accept the updated reports of Mr. Pureval and notify his campaign to address any potential inaccuracies and overcontributions.”

# Summary of Overcontributions (Pureval)

| Name               | Sum of Contributions | Sum of Expenditures | NET CONTRIBUTION | OVERAGE    |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|
| Whitis, Whitney    | \$3,300.00           | -\$1,100.00         | \$2,200.00       | \$1,100.00 |
| Cull, Rebecca      | \$1,600.00           |                     | \$1,600.00       | \$500.00   |
| Pureval, Aftab     | \$1,500.00           |                     | \$1,500.00       | \$400.00   |
| Petersen, Michelle | \$1,375.00           | -\$250.00           | \$1,125.00       | \$25.00    |
| Ahmad, Omar        | \$1,200.00           |                     | \$1,200.00       | \$100.00   |
| Buse, JB           | \$1,110.00           |                     | \$1,110.00       | \$10.00    |
| CODE PCE           | \$2,700.00           |                     | \$2,700.00       | \$1,600.00 |

# Contributions from Whitney Whitis

- Charter Article XIII, Section 1(g)(3) states that contribution limitations do not apply to the “personal contributions of a candidate or the candidate's spouse.”

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address         | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date      |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Whitney    |             | Whitis    |        | 3545 Holly Ave  | \$1,100.00             |                       | 06/28/22  |
| Whitney    |             | Whitis    |        | 16 Belsaw Place | \$1,100.00             |                       | 02/25/25  |
| Whitney    |             | Whitis    |        | 3545 Holly Ave  | \$1,100.00             |                       | 03/05/25  |
| Whitney    |             | Whitis    |        | 16 Belsaw Place |                        | -\$1,100.00           | 2/26/2025 |

- Mayor Pureval’s campaign confirmed on 5/27 that all contributions above are from his wife**

# Potential Typo for “Michelle Petersen”

*Originally:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address           | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date      |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Michelle   |             | Petersen  |        | 2702 Johnstone Pl | \$25.00                |                       | 03/14/22  |
| Michelle   |             | Petersen  |        | 2702 Johnstone Pl | \$250.00               |                       | 12/12/22  |
| Michelle   |             | Petersen  |        | 1226 Ida St       | \$1,100.00             |                       | 01/29/25  |
| Michlle    |             | Petersen  |        | 2702 Johnstone Pl |                        | -\$25.00              | 4/27/2022 |
| Michelle   |             | Petersen  |        | 1226 Ida St       |                        | -\$250.00             | 2/14/2025 |

*Corrected 5/27:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address           | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Michelle   |             | Petersen  |        | 2702 Johnstone Pl |                        | -\$25.00              | 04/27/22 |

# Overcontributions from Omar Ahmad

*Originally:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address          | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Omar       |             | Ahmad     |        | 6526 Winners Cir | \$1,100.00             |                       | 05/31/22 |
| Omar       |             | Ahmad     |        | 6526 Winners Cir | \$100.00               |                       | 05/05/25 |

*Refund Processed 5/27:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address          | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Omar       |             | Ahmad     |        | 6526 Winners Cir |                        | -\$100.00             | 05/27/25 |

# Overcontributions from JB Buse

*Originally:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address          | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| JB         |             | Buse      |        | 3574 E Kemper Rd | \$1,110.00             |                       | 02/27/23 |

*Refund Reported 5/27:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address          | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| JB         |             | Buse      |        | 3574 E Kemper Rd |                        | -\$10.00              | 4/3/2023 |

# Overcontributions from Rebecca Cull

*Originally:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address         | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Rebecca    |             | Cull      |        | 308 Warren Ave  | \$1,100.00             |                       | 02/27/23 |
| Rebecca    |             | Cull      |        | 308 Warren Ave. | \$500.00               |                       | 03/04/25 |

*Refund Reported 5/27:*

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix | Address         | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Rebecca    |             | Cull      |        | 308 Warren Ave. |                        | -\$500.00             | 3/5/2023 |

# Overcontributions of CODE PCE

## *Originally:*

| Address             | Was this contribution received from a Labor Organization? (If so please list below) | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 700 W Pete Rose Way | CODE PCE  | \$2,700.00             |                       | 03/08/22 |

## *Refund Reported 5/27:*

| Address             | Was this contribution received from a Labor Organization? (If so please list below) | Amount of Contribution | Amount of Expenditure | Date     |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 700 W Pete Rose Way | CODE PCE  |                        | -\$1,600.00           | 06/09/25 |

Additional thoughts?

# Suggested Language for Motions:

- If there **are no issues** identified with the reports:

“I move that the Commission, having determined that all potential overcontributions have been corrected, accept the updated reports of Mr. Pureval as complete and accurate.”

- If there **are issues** identified with the reports:

“I move that the Commission conditionally accept the updated reports of Mr. Pureval and notify his campaign to address any potential inaccuracies and overcontributions.”

**Omar Ahmad**

**\$100.00**

05 May, 2025 at 03:34 PM

**Recipients**

| Date       | Recipient     | Amount   |
|------------|---------------|----------|
| 2025-05-05 | Aftab Pureval | \$100.00 |

**Billing Address**

6526, Winners Cir  
Mason, OH 45040

**Occupation / Employer**

Not Employed  
Not Employed

**Contact Info**

**Contribution Info:**

Order Number: AB350902044

**Refunds**

| Refunded   | Reason     | Disbursed | Recovered |
|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 2025-05-27 | Ineligible | N/A       | N/A       |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Friends of Aftab Pureval</b><br/>         545 E Town St<br/>         Columbus, OH 43215</p> | <p>Fifth Third Bank<br/>         25-216/440</p> | <p>2053</p>  |
| <p>PAY TO THE ORDER OF <u>CODE PCE</u></p>  |   | <p>6/9/2025</p>  |
| <p>MEMO <u>One Thousand Six Hundred Only*****</u></p>   |   | <p>\$ **1,600.00</p>   |
| <p>CODE PCE<br/>         700 Pete Rose Way #10<br/>         Cincinnati, OH 45203</p>              |   | <p>DOLLARS</p>   |
| <p>Contribution Refund</p>  |   | <p><i>Jerry Schwab</i><br/>         AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE</p> |

Security features. Details on back.



⑈002053⑈ ⑆044002161⑆ 7980917798⑈