

Cincinnati Elections Commission

December 18, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.

Special Meeting Agenda

Old Business:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting on November 13, 2025 (**MOTION REQUIRED**)

New Business:

2. Discussion of 2025 Post-Election Campaign Finance Reports (**MOTIONS REQUIRED**)

↳ Presentation by Ian Doig, City of Cincinnati Law Department

Suggested language for motions: "I move that the Commission...

No issues: "...having identified no overcontributions or other issues, accept the reports of _____ as complete and accurate."

Overcontributions: "...conditionally accept the reports of _____ and notify their campaign to address any potential inaccuracies and overcontributions within __ days."

Untimeliness: "...assess a penalty in the amount of \$____ in connection with the late filing of the _____'s reports."

3. Discussion of 2026 CEC Meeting Agenda – *regular meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month*

- January 8, 2026
- February 12, 2026
- March 12, 2026
- April 9, 2026
- May 14, 2026
- June 11, 2026
- July 9, 2026
- August 13, 2026
- September 10, 2026
- October 8, 2026
- November 12, 2026
- December 10, 2026

Next Meeting: Currently set for Thursday, January 8 @ 4pm

Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission

Minutes of November 13, 2025

CEC members present: Marcus Bethay, Nick Klingensmith, and Ligaya West.

CEC members excused: Sally Jo Krisel.

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

Old Business:

1. Approval of the September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bethay moved for approval of the September 18, 2025 meeting minutes as provided. The motion was seconded by Mr. Klingensmith. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business:

2. Overview of Charter Amendment and Campaign Finance Reporting Schedule

Mr. Doig provided an overview of the recently approved charter amendment aligning the City's campaign finance reporting deadlines with those of the State of Ohio. He explained that the amendment simplifies reporting requirements for candidates by synchronizing reporting periods and deadlines, including post-general, annual, and semi-annual filings. Mr. Doig reviewed anticipated filing deadlines for 2026, noting that while no local elections are expected, some committees may still be required to file reports. Commissioners discussed the anticipated reduction in reporting activity during the upcoming off-election year.

3. Extension of Deadline to Fill Commission Vacancy

Mr. Doig explained that the charter amendment also extended the timeline for appointing new members to the Commission and granted the Commission discretion to further extend that deadline. He noted that the current vacancy has exceeded the prior deadline and recommended establishing a new deadline to encourage timely appointment.

Motion: Mr. Bethay moved to extend the deadline for appointing a replacement Commissioner by forty-five (45) days from the date of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Klingensmith. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Upcoming Post-General Election Campaign Finance Reports

Mr. Doig reminded the Commission that post-general election campaign finance reports are due

on December 12, 2025, and that approximately thirty campaign filings are expected. He outlined the review process and invited Commissioners to participate in reviewing filings, noting the need to avoid triggering open meetings requirements. Ms. West expressed interest in participating in the review process.

5. December Meeting Schedule

Mr. Doig noted that the Commission's December meeting has been rescheduled as a special meeting on December 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. He explained that, as a special meeting, discussion will be limited to items listed in the meeting notice, including review of post-election campaign filings. Commissioners were invited to suggest additional agenda items for inclusion in the notice.

Other Business:

No additional business was brought before the Commission.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Next Special Meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

2025 Post-Election Submissions – Summary of Findings

Name	First submission received on:	Final submission received on:	Apparent Overcontributions?
Cramerding, Jeff	12/11/2025		Yes
Bowman, Cory	12/11/2025		Yes
Smitherman, Christopher	12/17/2025	12/18/2025	No
James, Ryan	12/12/2025	12/17/2025	No
Cole, Laketa	12/13/2025		No
Parks, Victoria	12/16/2025		No
Prophett, Raffel	12/16/2025		No
Walsh, Seth	12/17/2025		No
Albi, Anna	12/12/2025		No
Brooks, Audricia	12/10/2025	12/11/2025	No
Corbett, Jerry	12/9/2025		No
Driehaus, Don	12/10/2025		No
Ennix, Brian	12/12/2025		No
Farmer, Kevin	12/7/2025		No
Favors, Gary	12/12/2025		No
Goodin, Steve	12/12/2025		No
Jeffreys, Mark	12/12/2025		No
Johnson, Scotty	12/11/2025		No
Kearney, Jan Michelle	12/12/2025		No
Keating, Liz	12/12/2025		No
Mallory, Dale	12/9/2025		No
Nolan, Evan	12/12/2025		No
Owens, Meeka	12/12/2025		No
Pryor, Stephan	12/10/2025		No
Washington, Donald	12/9/2025	12/10/2025	No
Weiner, Aaron	12/11/2025	12/12/2025	No
Pureval, Aftab	12/12/2025		No
Spivey, Julian			
Johnson, Dawn			
Matthews, Linda			
Nixon, Brandon			

These findings 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.



Cincinnati Elections Commission

Review of 2025 Post-Election 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.

Two Issues to Consider Today:



Is the filing complete and accurate, and does it contain no overcontributions?



Is the filing timely?

Duties of the Commission – Report Contents

- 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.

Duties of the Commission – Report Contents

- 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 – Violations

- Charter Article XIII, Section 4(e): Finding a violation.

After finding a violation of this Article, the commission may impose a civil fine or other penalty authorized by this Article.

Duties of Commission – Timing of Reports

- Charter Article XIII, Section 2(a): A candidate ... that made or received a contribution or expenditure supporting a candidate for city council or mayor shall file with the commission ... a full, true, and itemized report of the contribution or expenditure in the manner and form required by the commission by not later than 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:
 2. The thirty-eighth day after the municipal general election [December 12, 2025] to reflect the contributions received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the seventh day before the filing of the statement [December 5, 2025].

Duties of the Commission – Penalties

- Charter Article XIII, Section 2(d): Penalties.

- 1. Contribution.** When the commission chooses to impose a penalty for making, soliciting, or accepting a contribution that exceeds the maximum permitted by this section, the penalty shall be a civil fine equal to three times the excess contribution.
- 2. Reporting.** The penalty for failure to file a report required by this section is a civil fine for each day of violation a) in a council election, \$100, and b) in a mayoral election, \$200.

Suggested Language for Motions:

- If there **are no issues** identified with a report:

“I move that the Commission, having identified no overcontributions or other issues, accept the reports of _____ as complete and accurate.”

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

“I move that the Commission...

Overcontributions: “...conditionally accept the reports of _____ and notify their campaign to address any potential inaccuracies and overcontributions within __ days.”

Timeliness: “...assess a penalty in the amount of \$____ in connection with the late filing of _____’s reports.”

Summary of Findings

Name	First submission received on:	Final submission received on:	Apparent Overcontributions?
Cramerding, Jeff	12/11/2025		Yes
Bowman, Cory	12/11/2025		Yes
Smitherman, Christopher	12/17/2025	12/18/2025	No
James, Ryan	12/12/2025	12/17/2025	No
Cole, Laketa	12/13/2025		No
Parks, Victoria	12/16/2025		No
Prophett, Raffel	12/16/2025		No
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Weiner, Aaron	12/11/2025	12/12/2025	No
Pureval, Aftab	12/12/2025		No
Spivey, Julian			
Johnson, Dawn			
Matthews, Linda			
Nixon, Brandon			

Jeff Cramerding

- Flags: Two \$1,100 contributions from Timothy Maloney
- No offsetting expenditures / refunds

Campaign	First Name	Last Name	Address	Form	Filing Period	Amount	Date	Flags
Jeff Cramerding	Timothy	Maloney	3435 Golden Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45226	Contribution	Council - Post-Election 2025 Filing	\$1,100.00	2025.09.16	🚩 2
Jeff Cramerding	Timothy	Maloney	3435 Golden Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45226	Contribution	Council - Pre-Election 2025 Filing	\$1,100.00	2025.01.13	🚩 2
Total Contributions:					Total Expenditures:			
\$2,200.00					\$0.00			

Cory Bowman

- Flags: \$1,500 contribution from Christina Apicella
- No offsetting expenditures / refunds

Campaign	First	Last	Address	Form	Filing Period	Amount	Date	Flags
Cory Bowman	Christina	Apicella	74 Pheasant Brook Court Bedminster, NJ 07921	Contribution	Mayor - Pre-Election 2025 Filing	\$1,500.00	2025.06.06	2
Total Contributions:					Total Expenditures:			
\$1,500.00					\$0.00			

No reports received from:

- Julian Spivey (Mayoral write-in)
- Dawn Johnson (Council)
- Brandon Nixon (Council)

Partial reports received from:

- Linda Matthews (Council)

2026 Campaign Reporting Timeline - Key Dates

Published by the Cincinnati Elections Commission

This summary outlines key dates specific to candidates for an elected office in the City of Cincinnati. Please note that **separate reports must be made** to the State of Ohio through the Hamilton County Board of Elections ("BOE") and the Cincinnati Elections Commission ("CEC"). More information regarding CEC reporting is [available here](#).

2026 Campaign Reporting Timeline		
Date	Item Due	Must report through:
December 12, 2025	Post-General Report due for all campaigns participating in the 2025 General Election	December 5, 2025
January 30, 2026	Annual Report due for <i>all</i> campaigns, unless the campaign submitted a Post-General Report	December 31, 2025
February 19, 2026	Mayoral candidate nominating petitions due <i>[no candidates anticipated]</i>	
April 23, 2026	Pre-Primary Report due for campaigns participating in the 2026 Primary Election	April 15, 2026
May 5, 2026	Primary Election Day <i>[no candidates anticipated]</i>	
June 12, 2026	Post-Primary Report due for campaigns participating in the 2026 Primary Election	June 5, 2026
July 31, 2026	Semiannual Report due for <i>all</i> campaigns, unless: 1) the campaign received less than \$10,000 in contributions since last report; or 2) the campaign filed a Post-Primary Report.	June 30, 2026
August 20, 2026	Council candidate nominating petitions due <i>[no candidates anticipated]</i>	
October 23, 2026	Pre-General Report due for campaigns participating in the 2026 General Election	October 14, 2026
November 3, 2026	General Election Day <i>[no candidates anticipated]</i>	
December 11, 2026	Post-General Report due for campaigns participating in the 2025 General Election	December 4, 2026
January 29, 2027	Annual Report due for <i>all</i> campaigns, unless the campaign submitted a Post-General Report	December 31, 2026

NOTICE: THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. THE INDIVIDUAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLYING WITH ALL STATE AND LOCAL ELECTION LAWS.