

**Regular Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission
Minutes of February 9, 2023**

CEC members present: Constance Hill, Nick Klingensmith, Sally Krisel, and Terry Rath

City representatives present: Christopher Liu, Law; Teninnah Ross, Law

Old Business:

1. Approval of the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes

Mr. Rath moved for approval of the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Klingensmith and seconded by Ms. Krisel. A vote was taken and the November 10, 2022 minutes were approved by the three votes of Mr. Rath, Ms. Krisel, and Mr. Klingensmith.

New Business:

I. Introduction of New Members

Mr. Liu opened the discussion introducing and welcoming new CEC Members Nick Klingensmith and Sally Jo Krisel. Mr. Liu also noted that CEC Member Hill will not continue as a CEC Board Member due to residency. CEC Member Hill's position will create a vacancy to be filled by the Mayor.

II. Discussion of CEC Chairperson Selection Process

Mr. Liu opened discussion with an update to the CEC regarding the structure of the CEC. Vice Mayor Rath has been acting chair since the departure of CEC Chair Walsh. Those that wish to be chair or vice-chair will announce their intent in the March meeting. The Charter indicates that the next CEC Chair cannot be in the same party affiliated seat of the prior CEC Chair. This rule will prevent the democrat affiliated seat, CEC Member Krisel, from running for the Chair position in this CEC election cycle. During the March meeting, those that wish to become chair and vice-chair may announce their intent and a vote will be taken.

III. Preparations for 2023 Election Cycle

Mr. Liu opened discussion introducing two documents including an outline of the CEC and running requirements for City of Cincinnati elected office. Mr. Liu asked for a vote to be able to distribute the two documents to prospective candidates in an effort to be proactive. Mr. Liu added that he would also like to have two in-person information sessions for that would go over CEC rules, reporting requirements, and other pertinent information.

CEC Member Rath added that the CEC would like to make this process clear and avoid some of the prior election cycle issues.

CEC Member Krisel added that she thinks this is a good idea. She also suggested adding information about joint contributions and documenting the person's name that signed the check instead of the names that are on the check.

CEC Member Rath suggested that the running requirements include a section on post-election reports and that a candidate is susceptible to fines if the requirements are not met.

Mr. Liu asked for a motion to include the edits to the CEC requirements and doing an email blast on behalf of the CEC. CEC Member Krisel made a motion, and it was seconded by CEC Member Klingensmith. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Overview of CEC Membership Requirements

Mr. Liu began with an overview of the requirements of CEC members as it relates to the charter and the Ohio Ethics Laws. The City Charter states a commission member must be a resident registered to vote in the city of Cincinnati but may not hold or be a candidate for public office; be an officer of a political party; be a legislative agent. As to a Cincinnati municipal election, a CEC member may not make or solicit a contribution supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot question or issue; or serve on a committee of a political party, political action committee, or contributing entity. Any commission member who violates one of the prohibitions as to a Cincinnati municipal election shall have 30 days to cure the violation.

Mr. Liu also added that as a member of the CEC you are public officials by virtue of your appointment to this board. As a result, you are public officials subject to Ohio Ethics Laws. Specifically, there are a few that could come up. The first one is gifts. CEC members cannot accept anything of value over the \$25 threshold. In addition, the gift should not be from an improper source. Also, a member of the CEC cannot accept any supplemental compensation. Another pertinent rule for attorneys is that a CEC member cannot represent someone while on the CEC, and for 1 year after you leave the CEC position.

Mr. Liu opened the floor for discussion. CEC Member Klingensmith asked if it is okay to participate in social media with candidates. Mr. Liu informed CEC Member Klingensmith that CEC members have freedom of association.

CEC Member Rath asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. CEC Member Krisel made the motion and CEC Member Klingensmith seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm