

**Regular Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission
Minutes of July 14, 2022**

CEC members present: Marcus Bethay, Constance Hill, Terry Rath and Seth Walsh

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

Old Business:

1. Approval of June 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Rath moved for approval of the June 9, 2022 minutes, and Mr. Bethay seconded. A vote was taken, and the June 9, 2022, minutes were approved by the four votes of Mr. Walsh, Mr. Rath, Ms. Hill and Mr. Bethay.

New Business:

1. Discussion of Proposed Amendment to CEC Rule 18(B)

Mr. Liu opened discussion of CEC Rule 18(B), which had been previously amended to explain for the “First In, First Out” Accounting Method. But that amendment didn’t adequately explain how the conversion of campaign funds, over the maximum contribution threshold, should be reconciled in two documents for CEC review.

Mr. Nolan offered additional background on CEC Rule 18(B), which requires an “accounting” of the converted funds on the date the campaign submits the designation of treasurer filing, and which further requires the disposal of excess contributions by the date the campaign submits the nominating petitions.

Mr. Nolan explained the current interpretation of CEC Rule 18(B) requires disclosure of all expenditures, some of which aren’t even City related, and which may cause confusion in this process. The proposed amendment requires the disclosure of cash on hand and the disposal of those excess funds (without the additional expenditures related to a previous campaign).

This process would likely include one document listing the candidate’s most recent contributions that make up the cash on hand. This process would likely include a second document listing expenditures (likely between the designation of treasurer filing and the submission of the nominating petitions) that account for any necessary disposals.

The proposed amendment would make these requirements more clear. The proposed amendment specifically says:

In order to meet this burden, candidates shall submit ~~an accounting of their~~ to the Commission the following reports (in compliance with Rules 13 and 19) on or before the date such candidate submits a nominating petition for city council or mayor: (i) a statement of contributions received stating the most recent contributions received in an aggregate amount which equal to the amount being converted to council or mayoral campaign funds; and (ii) a statement of expenditures stating ~~The burden shall be on the candidate to demonstrate that the amount of converted~~ funds raised in a non-City campaign that exceed the contribution limits permitted by Article XIII and have been disposed of in accordance with O.R.C. § 3517.109(C) , if any.

Mr. Bethay asked what the basic problem we were trying to solve. Mr. Nolan indicated it was to clarify what the CEC requires on the expenditure side and how far back it goes. Mr. Liu indicated it was to homogenize accounting processes and easier to grasp. Mr. Walsh recalled a previous situation involving CEC Rule 18(B) which

Mr. Bethay moved for adoption of the proposed amendment to CEC Rule 18(B), and Mr. Rath seconded. A vote was taken, and the proposed amendment was adopted by the four votes of Mr. Walsh, Mr. Rath, Ms. Hill and Mr. Bethay.

2. Discussion of CEC Member Terms.

Mr. Liu explained the current CEC member terms, that Mr. Rath's term is set to expire, and that Mr. Walsh's term will expire after that in September. These two party-affiliated seats require input from the executive committees of each respective party. The Republican Party renominated Mr. Rath, along with two other individuals, and the Mayor is required to make an appointment from that list. Mr. Walsh indicated that he would not be seeking renomination or reappointment from the Democratic Party for the CEC.

Next meeting:

Mr. Walsh indicated it was the intention of the CEC to cancel the August meeting and (maybe) the September meeting of the CEC. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 pm.