

**Special Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission
Minutes of July 10, 2025**

CEC members present: Marucs Bethay, Nick Klingensmith, and Sally Krisel.

City representatives present: Ian Doig, Law; Teninnah Ross, Law; Gus Ricksecker, Council Aide.

Old Business:

1. Approval of the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes

Mr. Klingensmith moved for approval of the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bethay. A vote was taken and the June 12, 2025, minutes were approved.

New Business:

1. Proposed Charter Amendment re: Campaign Finance Filing Deadlines, etc.

Ian Doig opened the discussion introducing Gus Ricksecker from Councilmember Nolan's office. Ian shared that Councilmember Nolan's is putting forth a charter amendment that will affect campaign finance, reporting requirements and other election timelines.

Gus Ricksecker thanked the CEC for allowing him the time to speak. Gus began providing the CEC election and political background of Evan Nolan. Evan Nolan has worked in campaign finance either as a volunteer, on a campaign or as an official treasurer on a campaign and has worked with the financial documents over the years. One real issue that was apparent was the duplication of efforts between the city and state filing deadlines. The city has two additional reporting periods. This created a lot of confusion for candidates and members of the community. In an effort to simplify this process, the proposed charter amendment will merge the filing deadlines and use only the state deadlines. This will eliminate the city deadlines.

Gus also noted the charter amendment will include changes to the appointment and recruiting process with the CEC. The changes to the proposed charter amendment will change the appointment of a non-party affiliated member. The change will allow the mayor 30 days to appoint someone to the CEC versus the current 15 days. The amendment will also allow for the CEC to grant an extension to the mayor if a person has not been selected within 30 days.

Gus opened the floor for questions.

Ian provided the CEC with a copy of the red lined ordinance that will be on the November ballot. Ian asked the CEC for their input on the ballot language.

Sally asked about the prior proposed changes to the language for percentage of non-affiliated party. Gus added that their office received feedback from various agencies including the NAACP and the Urban League that the political composition of the CEC should not be placed on the ballot for change.

Sally clarified that council is placing this amendment on the ballot and the amendment is not petition driven. Gus and Evan will meet with additional groups to ensure everyone is okay with the language.

Sally asked Gus what does the CEC need to do regarding this amendment. Gus responded that since the CEC is a valued commission and wanted to allow for any questions from the group prior to the amendment being placed on the ballot. Ian noted that all members are welcome to reach out to Evan Nolan's office if they have any questions.

Ian asked the CEC if they have any advice or input on the ballot language or current proposals to the draft amendment.

Bethay and Klingensmith stated they both are okay with the current ballot language.

Ms. Krisel made a motion to approve the changes to the campaign finance section and the language of the ballot. Mr. Klingensmith seconded the motion. Mr. Bethay asked that the CEC see the final language before it is placed on the ballot. Ian noted that if there are additional changes the CEC can have a special meeting to discuss. Ian called the roll and motion passed.

2. Letter to Candidates re: upcoming Pre-Election Report Deadline (July 31, 2025)

Ian opened discussion providing a draft of a letter that will be sent to all candidates reminding them of the July 31, 2025, filing deadline for the CEC.

Sally asked that a note be added to the material stating the July 31st filing deadline is also a filing deadline for the state. Ian will add to the material. Ian will send this information to candidates tomorrow (July 11, 2025).

Ian added that the Law Department is currently working on the 5-Month report and would like to discuss the report at the next meeting. Ian also updated the CEC that there is no up-to-date information related to the mayor's selection of a CEC member.

Ian also added that if the proposed amendment passes, the CEC should have a discussion of the new filing deadlines.

Mr. Bethay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Klingensmith seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29pm.