

**Special Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission
Minutes of August 26, 2025**

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

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

Old Business:

1. Approval of the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes

Mr. Klingensmith moved for approval of the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bethay. A vote was taken and the July 10, 2025, minutes were approved.

New Business:

1. Discussion of 5-month Post-Election Report

Ian Doig opened the discussion noting the Charter has a requirement for the CEC to present the report to the city manager within 5 months following an election.

Ian provided a draft of the 5-month report to the CEC. He provided a quick overview noting the report includes information on candidates as well as discussions by the CEC regarding any issues. The report also includes goals for the upcoming election season. There is goal is to have full board of five members and also continued outreach. Ian asked for input from the CEC.

Sally stated it was really well written and did not have anything to add. Sally asked for a motion to accept the draft. Mr. Klingensmith made a motion to accept the draft. Seconded by Mr. Bethay. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of 2025 Pre-Election Campaign Finance Reports

Ian opened the discussion by providing a presentation to the CEC “Review of the 2025 Pre-Election Campaign Filings”. Ian noted the two issues that would be considered today which are “Is the filing complete and accurate, and does it contain no overcontributions” and “Is the filing timely?”. Ian also provided the CEC with Charter rules that govern this process. Duties of the Commission in Charter Article XIII, Timing of Reports, Section 2(a), Section 2(d), Section 4(e) and Section 4(d).

Ian began with the Summary of Findings that list candidates that were certified prior to the July 31st deadline. The list provides details on candidate submission dates and if the submission was complete.

Sally suggested accepting the reports that had no identified issues. Sally moved that the commission having identified no overcontributions or other issues accept the reports of:

- Albi
- Bowman
- Brooks
- Cole
- Corbett
- Farmer
- Nolan
- Parks
- Prophet
- Walsh
- Washington
- Weiner

Mr. Bethay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously. Ian noted that we will follow up with an official letter to the campaigns.

Mr. Bethay made a motion to accept the reports of James and Johnson identifying the timelessness of the reports and move to assess no penalty in connection with the late filing of the reports. Motion was seconded by Ms. Krisel. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Ian began to present the report of Mark Jeffreys identifying an overcontribution issue. Sally asked to make a motion not to impose a fine for late filings for the following candidates:

- Jeffreys
- Cramerding
- Kearney

Motion was seconded by Mr. Bethay. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Ian continued to present the report of Mr. Jeffreys and the overcontribution issue. Sally suggested that we send letters to the candidates requesting a correction of the overages providing 14 days instead of the 7 days.

Mr. Bethay made a motion to conditionally accept the reports of Mark Jeffreys pending a letter stating the overcontributions providing him 14 days to respond. Mr. Klingensmith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Ian presented the slide for Jeff Cramerding. Ian noted the overcontribution for Plumbers & Pipefitters. Since a PAC number was not listed. The campaign must identify the overcontribution and fix the issue.

Ms. Krisel moved to conditionally accept the reports of Mr. Cramerding asking the campaign to respond to the overcontribution within 14 days. A vote was taken and motion passed.

Ian's next presentation included Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney. The system flagged an overcontribution by the IBEW PAC which must be identified as a PAC by the campaign. Mr. Bethay made a motion to conditionally accept the report of Ms. Kearney providing 14 days to identify the IBEW contribution and fix the issue.

The next presentation was for Brian Frank. The overcontribution was due to a donation by the candidate. Mr. Bethay made a motion to accept Mr. Frank's report as complete and accurate. Motion was seconded by Ms. Krisel. A vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

The next presentation was for Meeka Owens identifying the overcontribution of \$50 from Ms. Berger. Mr. Bethay made a motion to conditionally accept the report of Ms. Owens asking the campaign to respond to the overcontribution within 14 days. The motion was seconded by Ms. Krisel. A vote was taken and motion passed.

Ian made mention that letters will be mailed to all the candidates regarding their finance reports.

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

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm.