



Open & Accountable Elections Program

City of Portland

www.portlandoregon.gov/OAE



La Ciudad de Portland se compromete a proporcionar un acceso significativo. Para solicitar una traducción, interpretación, modificaciones, adaptaciones u otras ayudas o servicios auxiliares, comuníquese al 503-823-4345, servicio para las personas con problemas auditivos: 711.

Orașul Portland și-a luat angajamentul să ofere acces adecvat tuturor persoanelor. Pentru a solicita servicii de traduceri sau interpretariat, modificări, cazare sau alte ajutoare ori servicii auxiliare, contactați 503-823-4345, Retransmisie: 711.

波特蘭市致力於為市民提供平等的參與機會。如需申請筆服、方案修改、住宿、其他助工具或服，請致電 503-823-4345，接聽：711。

Thành Phố Portland cam kết cung cấp sự tiếp cận hiệu quả. Để yêu cầu dịch vụ biên dịch, thông dịch, điều chỉnh, sửa đổi, hoặc thiết bị hay dịch vụ phụ trợ khác, hãy liên hệ 503-823-4345, Chuyển Tiếp: 711.

It is the policy of the City of Portland that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any city program, service, or activity on the grounds of race, color, national origin, disability, or other protected class status. Adhering to Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II civil rights laws, the City of Portland ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities by reasonably providing: translation and interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request these services, contact 503-823-4345 or Susan.Mottet@PortlandOregon.gov, City TTY 503-823-6868, Relay Service: 711.

What is the Open & Accountable Elections Program?

The Open & Accountable Elections (OAE) Program is a voluntary small donor matching program for Portland's citywide elections.

OAE is a new option for candidates who want to fund their campaigns with small-dollar donations. It is modeled after proven successes across the country, which have amplified the impact and reach of small donors in cities across America.

Why Should Campaigns Consider Participating in the Program?

By participating in this new program your campaign can send the message that you believe in a democracy where each of us is represented and has a voice and a government that works for every Portlander, not just the wealthy few.

Campaigns that apply, are accepted, and abide by the rules set out in the OAE program will get up to \$6 for each dollar of the first \$50 of allowable contributions from qualified donors. Example: Bob donates \$10 to a candidate, the city could provide up to \$60 to

their campaign, and the candidate could receive a total of \$70.

Mayoral campaigns that participate in OAE can receive up to \$304,000 in matching funds during the primary and up to \$456,000 in matching funds during the general election. Campaigns for Commissioner or Auditor can receive up to \$200,000 during the primary and up to \$240,000 during the general election.

The funds for these campaign donation matches come from the newly established Public Election Fund for the City of Portland. Campaigns which are uncontested will not receive public funds.

Where Did the Idea For This Program Come From?

In 2005, then-City Commissioner Erik Sten, with support from then-Mayor Tom Potter, passed the “Voter Owned Elections” campaign finance reform system. This new program allowed candidates for Portland City Council and Mayor to opt-in to public financing for campaigns by gathering 1,000-1,500 contributions of \$5 to receive \$150,000 - \$200,000 in public funding from the city.

During its five-year run, VOE was in effect for three city election cycles, during which time it was used successfully by a number of candidates and improperly by a few campaigns and consultants. Commissioner Sten used it to win re-election in 2006, and Amanda Fritz beat four other VOE candidates to win an open seat in 2008. VOE was repealed by a narrow margin (less than 1% of the vote) in a 2010 ballot measure. While OAE has similar goals and principles as VOE, this new program is a different structure that is modeled after effective programs used across the country.

There are 27 active programs in states, counties, and cities across the country that provide public funds to candidates for political office. The oldest programs have been in place for more than 4 decades, while new systems are being proposed. These programs vary in basic design, the scope of the offices they cover, and the amount of funding they provide to candidates.

What about the Honest Elections Ballot Measure?

The Honest Elections ballot measure, which passed in the city of Portland in 2018, sets campaign finance limits for candidates *not* participating in public funding programs like OAE. The safe route is to abide by Honest Elections which prohibits contributions from corporations, and limit contributions from individuals and political committees to \$500, even for seed money donations. It applies to all city positions including Mayor, City Commissioners, and City Auditor.

Major Dates for Participating Campaigns

- ❖ **November 27, 2018 - November 3, 2020:** Election cycle.**
- ❖ **July 1, 2019:** First day campaigns may file their notice of intent to participate in the program.
- ❖ **September 12, 2019:** First day of the 2020 candidate filing period.
- ❖ **[Last day of filing deadline]:** Deadline for campaigns to file their notice of intent to participate in the program.
- ❖ **April 20, 2020:** Deadline for campaigns to file their application to be certified to participate in the program.
- ❖ **April 28, 2020:** End of primary matching period.
- ❖ **April 29, 2020:** First day of general matching period.
- ❖ **May 19, 2020:** Primary Day
- ❖ **November 3, 2020:** General Election Day
- ❖ **November 18, 2020:** Last day for campaigns who participated in the general election to return unused public funds to OAE program.

****NOTE:** The “election cycle” in the checklist below refers to the first day of the cycle through Election Day 2020. As of this training, the legal first day of the 2020 cycle is November 27, 2018; the Portland City Council will decide in January whether to move this first day of the cycle to December 21, 2018 for compliance purposes.

Checklist: Can and Should My Campaign Use This Program?



Starting at the beginning of the election cycle, will my campaign do the following to remain eligible for OAE...

- Run for Portland City Mayor, Council, or Auditor in the 2020 election.¹
- Raise no more than the following in the primary election period: \$380,000 (Mayoral candidates) and \$250,000 (Commissioner or Auditor candidates).
- Raise no more than the following in the general election period: \$570,000 (Mayoral candidates) and \$300,000 (Commissioner or Auditor candidates).
- Agree to return any unused public funds within 15 days of the election.
- Agree to use only one campaign account during the election cycle (others do not have to be dissolved but may not be active).
- Not pay off any existing campaign debt in any existing campaign account with public money.
- Only use campaign funds to contribute to civic and non-profit organizations if the payment is for the purpose of attending a sp campaign event open to the public.

¹ Note: Campaigns that intend to apply for this program in a future cycle, starting in 2022, will have to comply with the fundraising limits and other requirements for the 2 years prior to the program.

- Accept no more than \$20,000 in-kind contributions for the primary election matching period.
- Accept no more than \$20,000 in-kind contributions for the general election.
- Accept no more than \$250 from any individual donor per election (for the primary, from the beginning of election cycle through end of primary election matching period and, for the general, during general election matching period).
- Don't accept outside contributions from organizations like PACs, corporations, unions, political parties, except in-kind contributions within the \$20,000 limit for primary election period and \$20,000 limit for general elections, or in the initial \$5,000 seed money allowance.
- Don't accept loans from anyone for campaign purposes (other than a loan from the candidate or candidate's spouse within seed money limitations).
- Don't accept contributions from the candidate's personal funds for their campaign. Candidates can contribute in the form of seed money provided it is given before notice of intent subject to limits as well as in-kind, subject to limits.
- Don't accept or spend funds from other campaign finance programs.
- Don't transfer funds from the candidate's publicly funded campaign account to any other outside campaign account.
- Don't transfer funds to the candidate's publicly funded campaign account from their own outside account, except when transferring seed money to the candidate at the allowed amount and allowed time.
- Agree to not spend public matching funds and qualifying seed money and in-kind contributions to...
 - Cover personal expenses.
 - Pay salary or expenses (other than reimbursable) to a family member.
 - Repay of loans, fines, or penalties.
 - Support/oppose other candidates, political committees, or measures (including through independent expenditures).
 - Pay for consulting services at a rate that is higher than the fair market value.
 - Pay for out of state travel.
 - Cover vehicle-related expenses.
 - Purchase gifts (not including campaign brochures, buttons, signs or other printed campaign material).
 - Pay for any expenses in cash.
 - Pay for lawyer, accountant, and other fees incurred when appealing penalties.
- Agree to not spend public matching funds to...
 - Repay seed money loans from the candidate or candidate's spouse.
 - Host election night/post-election parties (allowable contributions, seed money, and in-kind contributions may be used for such events).



Once my campaign decides to participate in the program, will we do the following...

- ❑ Raise no more than \$5,000 of seed money before filing a notice of intent for the matching program (loans from the candidate or candidate's spouse count towards that limit).
- ❑ Take the following steps in the following order:
 1. Attend one mandatory training in 2019 or later (candidate and treasurer required).
 2. Collect the following small-donor donations in order to qualify for certification for the program:
 - Candidates for Mayor must collect a minimum of \$5,000 in small-donor contributions from at least 500 matchable donors.
 - Candidates for Commissioner or Auditor must collect a minimum of \$2,500 in small-donor contributions from at least 250 matchable donors.
 3. Apply for certification to the program by April 28, 2020.
 4. If certified to participate in the program, only accept monetary donations of at least \$5 but no more than \$250 that are:
 - Made by an individual.
 - Made during the election cycle in which the candidate is seeking office.
 - Acknowledged by the required documentation, submitted to to the OAE program.



What are some scenarios that my campaign should consider before and while participating in the program?

Example: Your campaign receives polling information that is not available to the public.

- *Solution:* Count the value of the poll as a contribution (can count towards in-kind or towards seed money limit if spent before filing a notice of intent).

Example: Your campaign wants to use leftover donation envelopes from previous campaigns.

- *Solution:* Count the value of the envelopes towards in-kind or seed money contributions from your past campaign to your current campaign (each subject to the same timeline and limits as referenced above).