

The Oregonian

Former Portland Mayor Sam Adams running for Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's seat

*By Everton Bailey Jr.
January 15, 2020*

Former Portland Mayor Sam Adams is getting back into city politics.

Adams filed notice Wednesday that he plans to run for the seat on the city council currently held by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, said City Elections Officer Deborah Scroggin. The development was first reported by Willamette Week.

He has not yet qualified to appear on the May 19 primary election ballot -- and neither has Eudaly as of Wednesday. She has said she is running for reelection.

March 10 is the last day to file as a candidate for city office.

The seat is one of four contested seats on the five-member city council. In an email to supporters announcing his campaign, Adams said this year's city elections present "a historic opportunity to inject a new sense of energy, purpose, and engagement to move Portland forward."

"After a lot of thought and hundreds of conversations with my fellow Portlanders, I believe that I have something to offer by rejoining the City Council," Adams said in the message. "That's why I'm running and why I hope to have your support."

Eudaly told The Oregonian/OregonLive that she was stunned Adams chose to seek her position on the city council, but she was still ready to battle for reelection.

"I'm not campaigning against Sam," she said Wednesday evening. "I'm running on my record and my platform and what we want to accomplish in the next four years. My message doesn't change."

In addition to Eudaly, Mayor Ted Wheeler is running for reelection. Commissioner Amanda Fritz is retiring after her term ends at the end of this year and a special election will also be held to complete the term of late Commissioner Nick Fish, who died Jan. 2 of cancer. His term ends in 2022.

Already on the ballot in the race for Eudaly's seat are retired energy consultant Jack Kerfoot, licensed attorney Robert MacKay, former Portland Office of Community and Civic Life employee and ex-political science professor Mingus Mapps, activist Alyssa Vinsonhaler and transportation company owner Keith Wilson.

Adams has also filed notice that he intends to apply for public campaign financing. Wednesday was the last day candidates vying for the council seats of Eudaly, Fritz and Wheeler could apply for the Open and Accountable Elections Program, which gives candidates \$6 in taxpayer funds for every \$1 raised from eligible donors.

The deadline to be certified for the program is Jan. 29.

To qualify, candidates for commissioner races have to collect at least \$2,500 in contributions from at least 250 verified Portland residents. Mayoral candidates have to raise at least \$5,000 from at least 500 verified Portland residents.

Candidates hoping to benefit from the program can accept donations of at least \$5 but no more than \$250, except for initial seed money to help the candidate getting started. Each candidate in each race can only submit up to \$50 per donor to be matched in the primary election.

The program has \$2.8 million available in matching funds for qualified candidates with another \$1.2 million expected in July 2020, according to city officials.

The deadline to file a notice of intent to apply for public campaign funds for candidates in the special election for Fish's council seat is Feb. 7. The deadline to qualify for the program in that race is March 24.

Mapps, mayoral candidate Sarah Iannarone and Carmen Rubio, executive director of nonprofit Latino Network and a candidate in the race for Fritz's council seat, have qualified for the program.

Eudaly has also issued notice that she intended to apply for the program, but it's not immediately clear Wednesday evening if she has qualified.

Adams was mayor from 2009 to 2012 and served one term as city commissioner before that. His only term as mayor was marred by a sex scandal which hampered his effectiveness in office. While on the city council, he started a sexual relationship with teen he met on the job, then lied about it.

Prosecutors investigated the young man's claims that the sexual relationship began before he turned 18, which would have been illegal on Adams' part. But they found the claims by Beau Breedlove not to be credible and did not bring any charges.

Adams didn't seek a second term.

After leaving Portland City Hall, Adams was named executive director of the City Club of Portland in 2013. He moved to Washington D.C. the next year to work at the World Resources Institute, a non-profit that focuses on climate change issues.

Adams left the organization in 2017, a month after he was accused of sexual harassment by a former mayoral staffer. Adams has denied the allegations and told The Oregonian/OregonLive at the time that the claims weren't a factor in him leaving the company.

In his campaign email Wednesday, Adams specifically mentioned looking forward to addressing housing, homelessness, the city's transportation system, neighborhood parks, natural spaces and public schools on the campaign trail.

"Just as important, I believe we can strengthen the quality of the connection Portlanders have with their city government – a connection that too many feel it has been frayed or broken," the message said. "Passion debate, yes, but City Hall needs to be a place where we could work things out."

Chloe Eudaly reacts to Sam Adams running against her: 'It just doesn't make sense'

By Andrew Theen

January 15, 2020

Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said Wednesday she was surprised, "disappointed" and didn't understand why former Mayor Sam Adams is choosing to challenge her in the

upcoming May election instead of trying to fill the late Commissioner Nick Fish's seat on City Council.

"I just don't think it's a good look," she said. "We've had a council dominated by middle-aged white men for over 100 years. We now have a women-majority council for the first time in Portland's history and I am one of the most progressive council members. I've been very effective in this role. If his values are really what I understand them to be, it just doesn't make sense."

Eudaly, who swept into office in 2016 after defeating incumbent Steve Novick, said she had heard rumors that Adams was considering running against her, but she was repeatedly reassured by people close to Adams that he would instead seek Fish's seat.

On Wednesday, Adams, the one-term mayor and former City Commissioner and long-time aide to the late Mayor Vera Katz, instead filed paperwork seeking Eudaly's seat.

Four of the five citywide positions on City Council will be contested in May.

"My prevailing feeling right now is I'm disappointed," Eudaly said on Wednesday, briefly pausing, "in him."

Eudaly said she and Adams have a lot of mutual friends, and they shared a friendly dinner this summer. When asked if Adams gave her a heads up before the announcement, Eudaly said he did not.

"I think I bring something to council that Sam didn't," Eudaly said in an interview following a Metro transportation task force meeting, "and Sam won't. There was a better seat for him to run for."

Eudaly said that seat is the one vacated by her former colleague Fish, who died of stomach cancer Jan. 2.

Eudaly said she isn't viewing Adams entering the race as a sign she now has to run against the former mayor directly. "I'm not campaigning against Sam," she said. "I'm running on my record and my platform and what we want to accomplish in the next four years. My message doesn't change."

She said she's surprised that Adams would challenge her, given that she is a progressive who has accomplished a lot in her first term. Eudaly won a seat on council on a message of housing rights and tenants' issues, and she has led the way on those policies from her second-floor office.

She also leads the transportation department, a topic area that is near and dear to Adams' heart, too.

Eudaly said she is "more progressive" than Adams in a lot of areas, but they are similarly aligned in many others.

She questions why Adams chose to target her, but posited that it's a "calculated move," and she anticipates there will be some "very lively candidate forums."

Adams and Eudaly won't be the only candidates expected to appear on the May ballot.

Retired energy consultant Jack Kerfoot, licensed attorney Robert MacKay, former Portland Office of Community and Civic Life employee and ex-political science professor Mingus Mapps, activist Alyssa Vinsonhaler and transportation company owner Keith Wilson are all in as well.

Adams told The Oregonian/OregonLive that he called Eudaly and Mapps and left voicemails on their cell phones before he filed his paperwork.

He said that since he moved back to Portland, he's sensed he could help pave a way to help residents reconnect with city government. "I have ideas and deep passion for the issues, but since coming back to Portland full-time, I have been struck by how many Portlanders feel we are being run over by our challenges — how we are losing urgent opportunities to take on these issues in a way that improves the city we love," he said in an email to supporters.

Adams said he sees connection that too many feel it has been frayed or broken" with City Hall. "Passion, debate, yes, but City Hall needs to be a place where we could work things out," he wrote.

Willamette Week

Former Portland Mayor Sam Adams Files to Run Against Incumbent City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

*By Nigel Jaquiss
January 15, 2020*

Many had expected Adams to file to run for the seat vacated by the recent death of City Commissioner Nick Fish.

Former Mayor Sam Adams today filed to run for the Portland City Council seat held by City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly.

Adams' decision is something of a surprise. Eudaly ran a powerful grassroots campaign in 2016 to unseat then incumbent Commissioner Steve Novick. And while Eudaly has been slow to gear up for re-election, she has been a strong advocate for tenants' rights and enjoys the benefits of incumbency.

As recently as yesterday, people close to Adams expected him to run for the seat vacated by the Jan. 2 death of Nick Fish.

Eudaly did today meet the Jan. 15 deadline to file for public financing under the city's new Open and Accountable Elections system.

Adams also filed to participate in that program, which provides a 6-to-1 match for the first \$50 candidates raise from individual donors. (That means each \$50 contribution yields \$300 in public money. Candidates for council seats who qualify for public funding are limited to spending no more than \$250,000 in the primary. Mayoral candidates using public funding may spend up to \$380,000.)

Adams joins former city employee and political science professor Mingus Mapps and several other candidates in what is likely to be a highly competitive race for Eudaly's seat. His decision also leaves wide open the contest to succeed Fish.

The Portland Mercury

Former Mayor Sam Adams is Running Against Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

*By Alex Zielinski
January 15, 2020*

Sam Adams, who served as Portland's mayor from 2009 to 2012, has filed paperwork to run against Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in the May 19 primary election. According to City Elections Officer Deborah Scroggin, Adams' paperwork came in Wednesday afternoon.

In an email announcing his run, Adams writes, "I have ideas and deep passion for the issues, but since coming back to Portland full-time, I have been struck by how many Portlanders feel we are being run over by our challenges — how we are losing urgent opportunities to take on these issues in a way that improves the city we love."

"After a lot of thought and hundreds of conversations with my fellow Portlanders," he continues, "I believe that I have something to offer by rejoining the City Council."

Adams will be participating in city's public campaign finance program, Open and Accountable Elections.

Prior to entering the mayor's office, Adams spent four years as a Portland city commissioner and eleven years as former Mayor Vera Katz' chief of staff. Instead of running for a second mayoral term in 2012, Adams left the public sector to run Portland City Club. In 2014, Adams moved to DC to work on climate policy at the World Resources Institute.

Adams left his position in DC in December 2017, a month after former City of Portland mayoral aide Cevero Gonzalez accused Adams of sexual harassment during his tenure as mayor. In a statement sent to the press, Gonzalez alleged that Adams had expected him to assist in scheduling and setting up sexual encounters for Adams, and often asked Gonzalez sexual and inappropriate questions.

Since Gonzalez's allegations came after the state's statute of limitations on sexual harassment cases ran out, the claims were never investigated in court. The City of Portland also refused to investigate.

Adams did, however, hire a Portland law firm to investigate Gonzalez's claims. The final report, made public yesterday, claims that Gonzalez' allegations wouldn't have held up in court if he had brought them to trial. This conclusion was based on the opinions of retired Oregon judge Lyle Velure and Portland employment attorney Rebecca Cambreleng. Unlike an actual court case, this investigation did not rely on any evidence collected through legal discovery. Instead, the investigation relied solely on past news coverage, Gonzalez' public letter to media, and interviews with former city staffers conducted by the lawyers Adams himself had hired.

As mayor, Adams was celebrated for creating miles of new bike-friendly streets, championing a free TriMet bus pass for a Portland Public School, advocating for union employees, and slashing the city's diesel emissions. He was also the last (and, maybe, only) Portland mayor to fire a police officer for shooting and killing an unarmed Portlander. (That officer, however, was rehired two years later).

His tenure was also tarnished by scandal. In his campaign for mayor, Adams had denied having a romantic relationship with 17-year-old legislative intern Beau Breedlove. After winning the

mayor's seat, however, Adams admitted to Willamette Week that he lied—but argued that the relationship hadn't become sexual until Breedlove turned 18 (Adams was 43 at the time). Adams dodged two recall campaigns before deciding not to run for a second term.

Adams had first hinted at a run for City Council last week, after Commissioner Nick Fish's mid-term death left an open seat in City Hall. Adams decision to face off against Eudaly—and five other candidates—in the race for City Commissioner, Position 4 gives him a smaller window of time to campaign, but it promises a complete four-year term.

Here's more from Adams' email:

"I am excited about a campaign that is about how we can address our challenges through a lens of equity and inclusion and sustainability — working better together, tackling our toughest issues, like housing, homelessness, the safety and gridlock of our transportation system, threatened neighborhood parks, and natural spaces, and public schools that need all of us to be full partners in their success.

Just as important, I believe we can strengthen the quality of the connection Portlanders have with their city government – a connection that too many feel it has been frayed or broken. Passion debate, yes, but City Hall needs to be a place where we could work things out."

Commissioner Eudaly Applies for Public Financing for her Reelection Campaign

*By Alex Zielinski
January 15, 2020*

City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly filed notice of intent to participate in Portland's Open and Accountable Elections (OAE) program this afternoon, according to the OAE office. It's the first official sign that Eudaly's planning on running for re-election in May.

Today is the filing deadline for candidates hoping to use the city's new public finance program for the May 19 election. Candidates were allowed to start signing up for the program as early as July 1, 2019. Candidates who've sent their intent to participate in OAE have until January 29 to qualify, meaning they must collect contributions from 250 Portlanders, each of whom has donated less than \$250 to the candidate's campaign.

While she's expressed her intention to run for reelection, Eudaly has not formally announced her campaign. The homepage for her campaign website is down. Eudaly has yet to announce her campaign staff, and posted an ad for a campaign manager on her public Facebook page last week.

Eudaly was first elected to City Council in 2016, defeating incumbent Commissioner Steve Novick. Five people have already entered the race for her seat, including former city staffer Mingus Mapps and campaign finance advocate Seth Woolley. Mapps, who strongly opposes Eudaly's proposed changes to the Office of Community and Civic Life, is the only person running for Eudaly's seat who's successfully qualified for the OAE program.

Progressive Organizer Julia DeGraw Joins Council Race

*By Alex Zielinski
January 15, 2020*

Julia DeGraw, a progressive organizer and longtime water rights activist, has announced her campaign to fill the Portland City Council seat left vacant by Commissioner Nick Fish.

DeGraw is a critic of Portland's century-old commission form of government, arguing that city commissioners' outsized focus on specific city bureaus limits the city from solving broad issues that span bureaus. But, DeGraw says, she doesn't require this kind of structural shakeup (which may follow a pending ballot measure or city charter review change) to get things done on council.

"We need to ask all candidates, 'Even if you are going to be a commissioner in this commission form of government, what are you going to do to work across the silos?'" asked DeGraw in an interview with the Mercury. "I see [City Commissioner] Jo Ann Hardesty doing that with the police bureau. But that's about it."

DeGraw is especially interested in creating multi-bureau responses to climate change, since "climate change doesn't just impact one part of the city."

DeGraw is currently the director of PDX Forward, a nonprofit that lobbies for progressive government policies, like campaign finance reform and creating a public bank. Prior to PDX Forward, DeGraw spent a decade working for nonprofit Food and Water Watch, and helped lead the campaign to keep a Nestlé bottling plant out of the Columbia River Gorge.

DeGraw previously ran against Fish in May 2018, losing to the incumbent candidate with 32 percent of the vote. She says she never saw Fish as a rival.

"I genuinely agree with his values," she said. "I believe government can play an incredible role in solving society's problems."

DeGraw is one of many progressive Portlanders eyeing Fish's seat. Tenants' rights activist Margot Black and Metro Councillor Sam Chase have both signaled their intent to join the race—and local government veterans, like former Portland mayor Sam Adams and former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, are considering a run. The special election to fill Fish's seat will take place during the May 19 primary election.

The Daily Journal of Commerce

Construction Career Pathways Project plan gains Portland's endorsement

*By Sam Tenney
January 15, 2020*

A regional effort to bolster the ranks of women and people of color in the building trades gained a key backer after the city of Portland this week committed to supporting the Construction Career Pathways Project (C2P2) framework plan.

The city is among 16 municipalities and public agencies collaborating via an owner work group convened by Metro to devise a strategy for increasing career opportunities for traditionally

underrepresented communities in the skilled construction workforce. The stakeholder group was convened in 2018 and met regularly through August 2019 to develop a framework plan that would create a consistent regional approach to recruit, train and retain a diverse workforce.

Now, after a phased process that has included conducting a workforce market study, engaging stakeholders, and drafting and finalizing the framework plan, officials are gathering endorsements from the agencies involved in the project in order to move into the final phase – implementation of the framework plan.

“(That) is really where the rubber hits the road for us,” said Raahi Reddy, director of Metro’s diversity, equity and inclusion program, before Portland City Council on Wednesday. “We will work together with the agencies that have adopted this framework to coordinate our efforts and to make sure that we are holding ourselves and our projects accountable to the public.”

The group has engaged with industry partners, including contractors, labor and apprenticeship groups and community organizations, to develop the framework and determine how best to effectively enact the plan. Other agencies that have so far adopted the plan include Metro, Multnomah County and Prosper Portland.

The framework plan consists of seven points public owners should integrate into their practices in order to make improvements in construction workforce equity. Among those are setting minimum workforce participation goals based on a percentage of work hours performed on a project – including 20 percent by apprentices, 14 percent by women, and 25 percent by people of color – as well as implementing jobsite anti-harassment and culture change strategies, utilizing software to track progress on goals, and committing funds to increase diversity.

An accompanying tool kit provides further details and guidance for public owners in implementing the points recommended in the framework plan.

In signing the framework plan, the city is committing to continuing to collaborate with the stakeholder group and aligning with the minimum workforce participation goals over the course of a seven-year ramp-up period.

OPB

New Burdens On The Horizon For Portland's Public Campaign Financing Program

*By Rebecca Ellis
January 15, 2020*

Since its inception, Portland’s public campaign financing program has aimed to match candidate’s small dollar donations sixfold.

This means for every dollar the city’s inaugural batch of publicly-funded candidates receive from a Portland resident, they’re expecting \$6 from the city. This is true for the first \$50 of each donation.

This 6-to-1 ratio was calculated as the best possible match rate to ensure these candidates, who must accept strict campaign finance rules in return for city funds, can stay competitive against non-participating opponents, who are free to cash unlimited checks from big donors.

But the director of the city's Open and Accountable Election program, Susan Mottet, said she'll likely have to lower the match rate if she's not granted more funding from the city.

It all depends on how many candidates opt into public financing. As of Wednesday — the deadline for candidates in the general election races to tell Mottet they're participating — eight candidates are expecting to dip into the \$3.5 million fund.

Three of these candidates have already been certified by the program: That includes Sarah Iannarone, an urban policy consultant running for mayor; Carmen Rubio, the director of a Latino advocacy nonprofit vying for the seat left open by Commissioner Amanda Fritz; and, as of this Tuesday, former city and county official Mingus Mapps, running to unseat incumbent Chloe Eudaly.

Software engineer Seth Woolley and Portland State University advisor Candace Avalos both say they have the 250 donations they need to qualify — they're just waiting to get certified. They'll be running for the seat now occupied by Eudaly and Fritz, respectively.

Carpenter Timothy DuBois, also running for Fritz's seat, said he expects to qualify, but is still looking to secure about 80 donations before the certification deadline at the end of the month.

Eudaly was a latecomer. She turned in her 'Notice of Intent' Wednesday afternoon.

And a lot more are on their way.

Mottet said 12 candidates — a number she laughingly called “a little bit much” — have already told her they're interested in using the program to run for the seat left open by Commissioner Nick Fish, who passed away earlier this month. Those candidates have until March 24 to rack up enough qualifying donations.

It's a tight turnaround. But Mottet said the barrier likely can and will be met by a crowd of political newcomers enticed by a seat with no incumbent.

“The new candidate — if they really pounded the pavement and had people throwing them house parties — absolutely could raise the money,” said Mottet.

In order to make sure there are funds left over for them, Mottet said she'll need about \$1.7 million more in funding from city council. She plans to ask commissioners for the money during the spring budget process.

How that ask would play out is unclear. Since Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Eudaly are both up for re-election, conflicts of interest could potentially leave the decision in the hands of just two commissioners.

Mottet said she's not expecting the council to give her the full amount, meaning there's a good chance she'll need to lower the match rate. She could do that for the general election, the special election, or both. She could also change the match rate for run-off races.

“We'll see what we get,” said Mottet. “It's frustratingly up in the air.”

She said this uncertainty matters less for races where all candidates are participating in the program, as they will all see their funding fall in tandem. But it brings a special disadvantage to candidates in mixed races, who could see a sudden funding shortfall while their well-funded opponents continue unhindered.

Many candidates said they felt this exposed an underlying problem with the program: it is not being given enough support or funding by the city to make it a true success. It's one of the

concerns that led the city auditor Mary Hull Caballero, who oversees the city's election division, to refuse to house the system. It's now under the jurisdiction of Commissioner Fritz.

Mingus Mapps said he felt creating this program and only agreeing to devote 0.2% of the general fund was "like buying a new car and then choosing not to put oil in it."

Mapps said the looming threat of a reduced match rate pits candidates against one another.

"One of the reasons why I jumped into this race is I wanted to show that public financing can work, so I want everyone out there who has announced their intention to participate in public financing to actually achieve that goal," said Mapps. "At the same time, if everyone achieved that goal, the program will literally implode."

Candace Avalos said she was concerned about so much uncertainty arising once candidates had already agreed to place stringent constraints on their donations. The program requires candidates never take more than \$250 from a donor, refuse money from PACs, unions, and political parties, and puts a ceiling on how much they can raise (\$380,000 for mayoral candidates and \$250,000 for commissioners during the primary).

"I think it's something that we're going to need to look at in the future if we really want to commit to doing this," she said. "We need to make sure that we're putting our money where our mouth is."

Timothy DuBois said he was concerned that reducing the match rate mid-election would give an unfair advantage to those who qualified early and had been taking advantage of a 6-to-1 return since October.

Mottet said the fate of candidates' match rates will hopefully be clarified after her meeting with the program's advisory commission on January 30.

Regardless, Mottet said the priority is to keep the candidates in the loop so they can budget for any shortfall in cash as far in advance as possible.

"Going from 6-to-1 to 5-to-1 four months before the election is a lot better than going 6:1 to 3:1 two months before the election," she said. "So we just try and keep them informed and let them know what we're thinking."

Former Portland Mayor Sam Adams Seeks Comeback Against Chloe Eudaly

*By Anna Griffin
January 15, 2020*

Former Portland Mayor Sam Adams is seeking a political comeback. And he's challenging an incumbent.

Adams filed Wednesday to run for the Portland City Council seat held by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who is seeking reelection in the May primary.

Adams was a longtime chief of staff to Mayor Vera Katz, and a city commissioner when he was elected the first openly gay mayor of a large U.S. city in 2008, a win many political observers saw as the next step on the path to state or federal office.

But his administration was marred by scandal: As he was preparing to run for mayor, Adams denied rumors that he'd been involved in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old former legislative intern, Beau Breedlove.

Soon after his election, as Willamette Week prepared to publish a story, Adams acknowledged he and Breedlove had been in a sexual relationship, though he said it took place after Breedlove turned 18 and reached Oregon's age of consent.

The Oregon attorney general's office investigated the relationship, but did not charge Adams with any crimes. Breedlove told investigators, according to their report, that he and Adams kissed at least twice before his 18th birthday, including in a City Hall restroom. State prosecutors said they could not corroborate that account and questioned Breedlove's credibility.

Adams opted not to seek reelection in 2012. As a mayor and city commissioner, he was known as a creative and vigorous supporter of the arts and pedestrian — and bike-friendly planning. He showed a willingness to work with the real estate and downtown business communities, which have a sometimes-contentious relationship with City Hall.

After leaving City Hall, Adams served as head of the City Club of Portland for several years and then moved to Washington, D.C., to work for an environmental think tank. He returned to Portland last year and told Willamette Week he's struggled to find work because of a sexual harassment complaint a former aide filed in 2017.

Rumors of Adams running for city office again have been circulating for several weeks, though conventional wisdom was that he would run for the open seat created by the death of Commissioner Nick Fish earlier this month. Adams' decision to challenge Eudaly, a champion of tenants' rights who has angered many in the real estate community with her pushes for renter protections, is a surprise given the uphill climb any candidate faces when trying to unseat an incumbent.

Eudaly has her own experience facing off against the power of incumbency: She won her seat four years ago by defeating another controversial sitting commissioner, Steve Novick.