



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

Citizen Campaign Commission
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, Oregon 97204-1987
Phone: (503) 823-4078 Fax: (503) 823-4571

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Tom Potter
Commissioner Sam Adams
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Commissioner Erik Sten

From: Citizen Campaign Commission

Date: January 15, 2008

Subject: Public Campaign Financing in 2008 Special Election

Portland City Council asked the Citizen Campaign Commission to consider whether any changes to the City Code could allow candidates to participate in public campaign financing for the May 2008 special election.

Commission members discussed the issue at the January 14 meeting and unanimously recommend to City Council that the special election proceed with the campaign finance system as it currently operates.

Commission members discussed their efforts to date to craft special election procedures and expressed a variety of concerns about any changes at this time. They were concerned about hasty changes to the code that might result in problems. In addition, decisions would be more difficult under the pressures and distractions of on-going campaigns and possible impacts on individual candidates. Commission members believe that candidates have sufficient time to withdraw from one commissioner race and file anew for the vacant seat, asking prior contributors to quickly contribute \$5 for their new race. In addition, members expressed the belief that there was an implied agreement between contributors and candidates about which office they are running for that needs to be respected. Finally, they all expressed interest in watching the special election carefully as they consider future rules for these rare but very important situations.

The Commission's primary goal is the continued success of the program and is pleased with the large number of candidates seeking public campaign financing. For all these reasons, the Commission would recommend that Council avoid any attempts to build a quick qualification process to address this special election.