



# Portland City Auditor

Elections



March 5, 2024

House Committee on Rules  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 4024

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Helfrich, Vice Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate the previous opportunity to weigh in on House Bill 4024 and that our feedback is generally reflected in the -5 amendments. For this reason, the City of Portland and City of Portland's Auditor's Office would like to withdraw its previous testimony in opposition of the bill. To be clear, the City of Portland and the Auditor's Office never intended to oppose the purpose of HB 4024. Our previous opposition was targeted at specific language that could have negatively impacted previous voter enacted campaign reforms in Portland.

Public opinion polls have consistently shown that Oregonians are interested in changing the structure of our elections and campaigns. In Portland, 87% of voters passed campaign finance regulations in 2018 to limit large contributions and require political advertisement disclosures of top funders in city races. The City is now in its third election cycle under these requirements. With voter approval of a constitutional amendment to authorize campaign finance contribution limits in 2020, the City and the Auditor's Office supports the legislature's efforts to bring diverse stakeholders together to find a middle ground to move campaign finance reform forward across the state.

As the City of Portland gears up for a historic transition to a new form of government and our first election using ranked choice voting, we are deeply appreciative that the -5 amendment protects previously enacted campaign finance limits and disclosure requirements and now explicitly states that local governments can provide a program of public financing to participating candidates beyond limits set in the bill. We also appreciate that the implementation timeline was delayed, providing ample time to ensure a smooth roll out. The City of Portland and the Auditor's Office hopes to be a collaborative partner in those efforts.

Thank you again for hearing, and incorporating, our feedback.

*Deborah Scroggin*

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