

**Election Commission
City of Aurora, Colorado**

**May 20, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Via Virtual**

Carolyn Boller called the meeting to Order.

Members Present:

Carolyn Boller
Jessica Chauvin
Scott Irvin- Absent
William McCartin
Joanna Floribus

Staff Present; Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, Barbara Dahl, City Clerk Analyst, Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney, Rachel Allen, City Attorney

Guest Present; Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Johnson, Dale Nichols, Amanda Gonzales, Owen Perkins, Council Member Angela Lawson, Council Member Juan Marcano, Council Member Alison Coombs, Council Member Curtis Gardner

Approval of minutes March 11, 2020- Bill moved and Jessica 2nd to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Steve updated the group on the current status of the Caring 4 Aurora Ballot Initiative. They had checked out some petitions but have never come back to get more. The deadline for submittal is July 6, 2020.

New Business:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson again presented some of the details of her new proposed Campaign Finance ordinance with revisions. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson is seeking to repeal and replace our current ordinance. Some of the issues discussed includes ;

- Limitations on corporate donations. Should such donations be prohibited, limited, and if so at what amounts and to which committees. Should they be limited only to campaigns for elected positions and thus to candidates and candidate committees? Should they be limited as to issues meaning ballot issues and questions which arise. Is there a difference? If prohibited or limited how does that comport with Citizens United, with the Colorado Constitution, and with local practices of Municipalities around the State. Discussion might occur as to whether Citizens United controls, the State Constitution controls, whether the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling pertaining to Governor Ritter's interrogatories pertaining to Citizen's United's impacts what we may do, and the reality that there are open questions pertaining to statutory schemes from other jurisdictions which have, as yet been unchallenged, and whether those schemes make sense in Aurora if we do not have the same predicates those schemes are founded upon, such as funded campaigns or matching funds for campaigns.
- Do we need to limit, and if so to what amount cash or coin contributions. What is the tracking utility verses impediment to contribution?

- Do we have a problem with “conduits” and do we want to broach regulating this phenomenon, and if so do we have the regulatory capability, financially and resource-wise?
- When we discuss limiting foreign donations do we mean those of foreign countries or foreign, somehow, to our jurisdiction, such as out of state money and if so are the definitions clear?
- As to reporting requirements are they clearly meant to enhance disclosure and tracking of donations, or do they go further such as to discourage donating by making reporting requirements deliberately onerous?
- Have unexpended campaign contributions presented a problem such that they need more clear regulation and guidelines. Currently we are in fairly close alignment with State law, but perhaps we do need direction on whether they can be used for childcare while campaigning.
- What ill do we hope to correct if we adjust the affidavits candidates must file and do the proposals out there currently address them comprehensively?

Some Election Members expressed concerns/ideas/suggestions regarding the increased length of ordinance, items being lost in translation, enforcement, overall goals, campaign Finance limits, new reporting system, Tracking, cooperate vs. personal or business loan issues.

Council Member Johnson assured the commission that this is not the final draft and more changes and edits need to be made. The election commission will look over the final draft before it goes on to policy committee and on to City Council.

The Meeting was Adjourned @ 8:17p.m.



Carolyn Boller, Chair