



Program #72067 - Public Campaign Finance **FY 2026 Department Requested**

Department: County Management **Program Contact:** Travis Graves
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Department Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Program Description

In 2016, Multnomah County voters approved limits on campaign contributions and expenditures for candidates seeking the positions of Multnomah County Chair, Commissioner, Auditor, and Sheriff. In 2020, the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the limits on campaign contributions, but struck down the limits on expenditures. This means that candidates for elected office in Multnomah County are limited to accepting no more than \$568 from an individual or political committee. There is no comparable limit on the amount of money that can be expended by a campaign, leading to inequities in the ability to seek elected office, particularly for candidates from historically underrepresented communities, and making it challenging for candidates who cannot self-finance their campaign or carry over funds from prior campaigns to compete for elected office.

In Fiscal Year 2025, this program hired 1.0 Program Manager and convened a Public Campaign Finance Implementation Advisory Committee. The committee was convened in December 2024 and met through March 2025 to develop a report that included: recommendations on how best to implement public campaign financing in Multnomah County, an examination of potential governance structures, examining potential financing options, identifying administrative rules that must be established, and scoping relevant technology, staffing and other costs associated with operating a small donor public campaign finance program. This budget request reflects the FY2025 approved program budget, as the Committee's cost estimate was not finished at the time of departmental budget submissions. By March 2025, the program will have a completed estimate of the resources necessary to launch a public campaign finance program during FY2026.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Outcome	Technology systems identified, procured and operational by 12/31/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Outcome	Hiring of all budgeted staff identified as necessary for program launch by 12/31/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Output	Community meetings held to educate public on new public campaign finance program for County elections	N/A	N/A	N/A	4

Performance Measures Descriptions

Staff will identify, procure and operationalize the technology systems necessary to operate a public campaign finance program by 12/31/25; Staff will hire all budgeted staff identified as essential to program launch in the Public Campaign Finance Implementation Advisory Committee report by 12/31/25; staff will convene at least four community meetings in FY 2026 to educate the public on the details of a new public campaign finance program.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Department Requested General Fund	Department Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$213,298	\$0	\$217,955	\$0
Contractual Services	\$143,351	\$0	\$143,351	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$143,351	\$0	\$143,351	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$212	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$500,000	\$0	\$504,869	\$0
Program Total:	\$500,000		\$504,869	
Program FTE	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This program is supported by the General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 72067 Public Campaign Finance