

City Council

May 26, 2010

Testimony – Referral of Campaign Finance Fund to November 2010 Ballot

I am Carol Cushman representing the League of Women Voters of Portland.

The League supports the referral of the Campaign Finance Fund to voters at the November 2010 general election.

When the Portland City Council adopted Voter-Owned Elections in 2005 there was a commitment to refer the reform program to voters after five years. This has given Portlanders first hand experience with the program as well as provided opportunities for improvements as suggested by the volunteer Citizen Campaign Commission and adopted by City Council in the ensuing years.

We applaud the hard work done by City Auditor LaVonne Griffin-Valade and her co-sponsors of the referral, Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Nick Fish, in preparing an even-handed and informative ballot title.

The League has long supported campaign finance reform as a critical element in achieving the goals of open and representative government.

The League wholeheartedly supports Voter-Owned Elections, and we applaud our city's leadership in leading the way for the political reform needed in both state and national elections as well.

We look forward to the opportunity for voters to judge the reform program. We believe the citizens of Portland will retain Voter-Owned Elections because they are the ones who truly benefit from the system.