



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/23/2025

REQUESTER: Brenda Hall, City Clerk

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-11 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AMENDING SECTION 2-301 TO REMOVE MENTION OF NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION; REPEALING ARTICLE 10-II TITLED "CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURES OF CONTRIBUTORS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to 2014, cities could adopt ordinances governing certain conduct related to elections. Norman's ordinances set out requirements related to filing campaign statements, what qualifies as a campaign expenditure, and campaign record retention. The City Clerk was required to supply appropriate forms, including campaign statements, instruct candidates on their duties related to the City's requirements, and review all filed statements and check for irregularities. The Norman Election Commission was created to assist with the education of candidates, review campaign statements, and take action on any irregularities or failures to file required statements.

In 2014, the State legislature adopted the Municipal Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act as a matter of statewide concern, limiting the City's role in oversight of municipal elections. The Act largely governed the conduct of municipal elections but still required the filing of requirement campaign statements with the City Clerk and empowered the Oklahoma Ethics Commission to enforce the requirements. As a result, Council adopted Ordinance O-1415-23 which limited the Norman Election Commission to a review body with no authority to enforce the state requirements and modified the Clerk's duties to ensure consistency with the new state law.

During the recent legislative session, the State legislature adopted Senate Bill 890, which further amended the Municipal Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act to completely eliminate the City Clerk's role in municipal candidate elections, other than to accept the initial filing of candidacy and related fee provided to the Cleveland County Election Board by municipal

candidates. All campaign statements, reports, etc. will be required to be filed with the Ethics Commission, who will be charged with reviewing documents for compliance with State law. Senate Bill 890 becomes effective on November 1, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

Ordinance O-2526-11 amends Section 2-301 of the City's Code to delete the reference to the Norman Election Commission as one of the City's appointive boards and commissions. It also repeals Article 10-II of the City's Code to comply with Senate Bill 890. This particular article sets forth the duties of the City Clerk and the Norman Election Commission as allowed under the 2014 version of the Municipal Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ordinance O-2526-11 will ensure compliance with Senate Bill 890 and is recommended for adoption by City Council. If adopted on Second Reading on September 23, 2025, it will be effective in time for the effective date of Senate Bill 890.