



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2019 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

1. When is the November 2019 Election, and what will be on the ballot?

The Regular Local Election will be on November 5, 2019, and the ballot will include candidates for City Council Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8, General Obligation Bond questions, and possibly other questions approved by the City Council. This election will be administered by the Bernalillo County Clerk, although public financing, campaign finance reporting, and the verification of nominating petitions will be administered by the Albuquerque City Clerk.

2. I heard that there have been changes to election laws — what are they, and when do they go in to effect?

There have been changes to the State election laws, and the City's Election Code, public financing, and administrative rules.

Local Election Act Changes: The State passed a law called the Local Election Act. This law made two main changes that you should be aware of: First, it changed the date of City Elections from October to November of odd-numbered years. Second, the County Clerk now administers City elections, rather than the City Clerk. The City Clerk still administers some parts of City elections — public financing, campaign finance reporting, and verifying nominating petitions. The City's Election Code, Open and Ethical Elections Code, and Code of Ethics still apply to City elections, and questions about compliance, and complaints alleging election-related violations, still go to the City Clerk. The Local Election Act is in effect and will apply to the November 2019 Election. More information about the Local Election Act can be accessed [here](#).

Albuquerque Election Code Changes: The City also passed reforms to the City's Election Code. These changes are in effect and will apply to the November 2019 Election. These changes are:

- Clarified or added definitions for the following terms: Candidate, In-Kind Donations, Expenditures, Contributions, Independent Expenditures, Coordinated Expenditures, and Reporting Individual;
- To encourage compliance with election laws and discourage frivolous complaints, legal fees for advice on compliance with election rules and laws, and legal defense related to

the campaign or election, are not subject to expenditure, contribution, or in-kind limits (but must be reported);

- Campaign finance reporting schedule is streamlined. PLEASE NOTE: The City may make additional changes to the campaign finance schedule – please check back regularly for changes or contact the City Clerk to confirm the schedule;
- Candidates with outstanding campaign finance issues or unpaid fines will not have their names placed on the ballot;
- Clarified the ban on contributions from city contractors;
- Clarified campaign finance disclosure schedule for candidates who do not qualify for the ballot or do not file a declaration of candidacy; and
- Provided authority for the City Clerk to issue rules and regulations for the Election Code.

The Albuquerque Election Code can be accessed [here](#).

Administrative Rule Changes: The City Clerk is drafting proposed changes to administrative rules for both the City Election Code and the Open and Ethical Elections Code (“OEEC”). Once the proposed rules are finalized, they will be made publically available and the City will have a public hearing. All members of the public are welcome to attend this hearing and give public comment on the proposed administrative rules. Once final versions of the rules are signed by the City’s Chief Administrative Officer, the rules will be in effect and will apply to the November 2019 Election. Please check back regularly for updates regarding these rules.

Albuquerque Open and Ethical Elections Code (Public Financing) Changes: The City is proposing changes to the OEEC, which governs public financing. These changes will go to the voters. However, these changes will not go in to effect until after the November 2019 Election. Individuals seeking public financing for the November 2019 Election will operate under the OEEC as is currently exists, as well as the administrative rules discussed above. The current OEEC, which will apply to all candidates seeking public financing for the November 2019 Election, can be accessed [here](#).

Democracy Dollars Changes: Just like the City’s reposed public financing changes, the Democracy Dollars proposal will go to the voters, and if it passes, it will not go in to effect until after the November 2019 Election. Individuals seeking public financing for the November 2019 Election will not have Democracy Dollars.

3. Why won’t the OEEC changes and Democracy Dollars apply to the November 2019 Election?

The City’s proposed OEEC changes and Democracy Dollars have to go to the voters. By the time these proposals are voted on, the public financing cycle for the November 2019 Election will have already begun. If the changes pass, they will go in to effect at a later date, after the November 2019 Election has concluded.

4. I want to use public financing to run for City Council in the November 2019 Election — what do I need to know?

Please go to: <http://www.cabq.gov/vote/candidate-information/publicly-financed-candidates/publicly-financed-candidates-2019-guidelines>

For key dates, please refer to the [2019 Candidate Calendar](#).

5. I want to run for City Council in the November 2019 Election, but I don't want to use public financing — what do I need to know?

Please go to: <http://www.cabq.gov/vote/candidate-information/privately-financed-candidates>

For key dates, please refer to the [2019 Candidate Calendar](#).

6. I want to advocate for or against an issue or candidate during the November 2019 Election — what do I need to know?

Please go to: <http://www.cabq.gov/vote/information-for-measure-finance-committees>

7. What is the campaign finance disclosure schedule?

The City Clerk is in the process of establishing a simplified campaign finance reporting schedule, and will issue guidance on the schedule by or before March 15, 2019.