



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2024

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STEPH ROUTH FOR EAST PORTLAND CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS 2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL, COINCIDING WITH NEWS OF POTENTIAL SMALL DONOR ELECTIONS CUTS

Steph Routh's grassroots campaign has remained in the top 5 fundraising campaigns for over two months

Portland, OR—The [Steph Routh for East Portland](#) effort has exceeded its fundraising goal of \$30,000 during 2023, maintaining its position as one of the top five fundraising campaigns in the 2024 Portland City Council race. As of December 31, 2023, Steph Routh for East Portland has over 500 individual donors, 457 of whom are Portland residents. About 65% of Steph's grassroots campaign donors gave \$25 or less.

This campaign fundraising milestone comes on the heels of recent news that Portland's [Small Donor Elections program](#) may be underfunded at this transformational time for Portland City government. According to [recent reporting by OPB](#), while City Council provided \$3.4 million in funding for the 2022 cycle—which had three open seats—the current funding level for the 2024 election is \$3.8 million for 13 open seats. The program would require \$5.4 million in additional funding to meet the moment of this election.

“The [Small Donor Elections](#) program reduces the influence of big money in politics and makes values-based campaigns like ours winnable,” said Steph Routh, [Portland City Council Candidate for District 1, East Portland](#). “It's unfortunate that the City of Portland is considering scaling back the program during this singular moment in our city's history. We hope that the Council chooses to fully fund this program, and in the meantime, we will continue to connect with Portlanders on the issues that matter to us all. I feel deep gratitude and the responsibility of the trust that Portlanders have placed in our campaign, and I look forward to the year ahead, starting with our campaign kickoff event on January 26.”

“Supporting Steph Routh for City Council is a given for me,” said Portland resident Tim Halbur, whose donation heralded the campaign's \$30,000 milestone achievement. “I would support her for Mayor if I could! It is immediately obvious when you talk to Steph that she will make City Council a more collaborative body that listens and makes worthwhile decisions for regular people.”

Metro Councilor Duncan Hwang's donation helped the campaign surpass the 250-donor threshold needed to qualify for the Small Donor Elections program. According to Hwang, “The large number of donors to this campaign is just the latest example of what we've all known all along—Steph is a prominent and well-loved grassroots leader with deep ties to our East Portland community. She'll be a terrific councilor for our city.”

[Steph Routh for East Portland's priorities](#) are community safety, shelter and housing, climate action and creation of a better government in this historic race. Thanks to the passage of the Portland Charter Reform last November, the 2024 election is a rare chance to build a more collaborative organizational culture in Portland city government. Steph Routh for East Portland's team knows that successful action on the campaign trail will rely on collaboration with other candidates. Routh is engaged with good governance campaigns and is committed to advancing a coalition of voices that are ready to build our future.

The Steph Routh for East Portland campaign will formally kick off its campaign on Friday, January 26, at 6 p.m. at [The ZED](#) on Southeast 92nd Avenue and Southeast Foster Road. [You can find more details by clicking on this RSVP link.](#)

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