

August 21, 2019

Jeanne Gordon, J.D.
Member, Citizens for an Elected Mayor
3065 Berkshire Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Via Electronic Mail: citizensforanelectedmayor@gmail.com

Re: **ICMA Response to Letter concerning Upcoming Form of Government Ballot Measure**

Dear Ms. Gordon:

Thank you for your letter of August 10th regarding the upcoming form of government ballot measure in Cleveland Heights.

Responding to your comments, please note that Ms. Briley was cc'd on ICMA's email informing the Cleveland Heights Citizens for Good Government of ICMA's support as a courtesy since she is both a member of ICMA and serving as the City Manager of Cleveland Heights. We wanted to make sure she was informed of our decision.

The ICMA Committee on Professional Conduct has responsibility for determining, based on the facts, whether a member's conduct meets the high ethical standards established in the ICMA Code of Ethics. In making that evaluation, they would look at all relevant Tenets and guidelines in the Code.

To better guide your understanding of the Code, here is the complete Tenet which outlines the member's obligation to uphold the principle of political neutrality along with the guidelines that are relevant to the issue at hand:

Tenet 7. Refrain from all political activities which undermine public confidence in professional administrators. Refrain from participation in the election of the members of the employing legislative body.

GUIDELINES

Elections. Members share with their fellow citizens the right and responsibility to vote. However, in order not to impair their effectiveness on behalf of the local governments they serve, they shall not participate in political activities to support the candidacy of individuals running for any city, county, special district, school, state or federal offices. Specifically, they shall not endorse candidates, make

financial contributions, sign or circulate petitions, or participate in fund-raising activities for individuals seeking or holding elected office.

Elections relating to the Form of Government. Members may assist in preparing and presenting materials that explain the form of government to the public prior to a form of government election. If assistance is required by another community, members may respond.

Presentation of Issues. Members may assist their governing body in the presentation of issues involved in referenda such as bond issues, annexations, and other matters that affect the government entity's operations and/or fiscal capacity.

Personal Advocacy of Issues. Members share with their fellow citizens the right and responsibility to voice their opinion on public issues. Members may advocate for issues of personal interest only when doing so does not conflict with the performance of their official duties.

ICMA was founded in 1914 with the mission to advance professional management of local governments through the council-manager form of government. Our members in Ohio and across the globe have lent their voices, expertise, and funds to these citizen-led efforts for good government. While reasonable people may disagree about the preferred form of government, we believe that council-manager form is the most effective and ethical. We do not intend to withdraw our support for citizens who are working to retain the council-manager form of government in Cleveland Heights.

Regards,



Marc A. Ott, ICMA-CM
Executive Director