

**CINCY2021**

**Dr. Najoli**  
for **Mayor**  
**Cincinnati**

**Friends of Najoli**  
**Campaign for Mayor of Cincinnati**

March 10, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **On Contributions for County, Mayoral, and State Races**

WEST PRICE HILL, OH – Last year I ran for Hamilton County Commissioner and finished the race with a balance of cash in my campaign account. As we pondered entering the Mayoral race, I reached out to the Board of Elections (BOE) campaign finance team to inquire whether we could carry over that balance and use it for this 2021 race. I was informed that I could not and advised to zero it out then start a new account. I decided to donate the money to a local church on the Westside of town.

Opponent Aftab Pureval ran for County Clerk last year and ended the campaign with \$154,000. He is requesting the Cincinnati Elections Commission to allow him to carry over that money into the Mayoral race. Rules are rules. No candidate should be allowed to pull off such a move. Opponent Cecil Thomas transferred about \$13,000 from his State Senatorial campaign to the Mayor race. We cannot perpetuate an awful political culture by bending the rules. The citizens of Cincinnati should say, 'No' to this type of politics. All campaigns should be required to donate the money to our city's non-profits, which are currently hurting in the face of the pandemic or to something like the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which needs to be strengthened.

Our campaign is appealing to Cincinnati Elections Commission chairman Seth Walsh and the members to ensure fairness. Please hold all candidates to the same rules. If we are serious about building a city where there is equity, we must ensure equal application of rules to all candidates in this election. None should have the audacity to think he is so privileged that the rules do not apply to him. I am requesting the other candidates in this race to follow the rules and zero out their accounts like I was asked to by the BOE. Like David Mann has said, the limits are different in these races, and so it is inappropriate and "an unwarranted, unfair advantage" against other candidates who follow the rules.

May we all strongly condemn any campaign that seeks to bend the rules and regulations of our elections. We have to end this culture of career politicians continually exploring how to twist rules for their own unselfish ends. It is time to clean up the mess being perpetrated in our political culture and move in a new direction of character in leadership. That will restore the public trust and make Cincinnati a shining example of a city that is advancing toward its best days yet.

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