

2.12.295 Report of late contributions.

All candidates and committees, including committees qualified under Section [2.12.095](#) but prior to filing required statements under Section [2.12.255](#) of this chapter, shall report all late contributions received by identifying the full name, street address, occupation, and the name of the employer, if any, or principal place of business if self-employed, of the contributor. Late contributions of one hundred dollars or more, but less than one thousand dollars, shall be reported to the City Clerk within forty-eight hours of receipt; late contributions of one thousand dollars or more shall be reported to the City Clerk within twenty-four hours of receipt. Such reports do not require an original signature. Late contributions shall be reported on subsequent campaign statements in addition to reports filed pursuant to this section. (Ord. 7309-NS § 7, 2013; Ord. 5895-NS § 1, 1988; Ord. 4700-NS § 415, 1974)

2.12.297 Late independent expenditures preceding election.

A. *Disclosure of Expenditures.* Any person that makes a late independent expenditure as defined in California Government Code Section [82036.5](#) shall file the required report with the City Clerk within 24 hours of making the expenditure. The City Clerk shall post a copy of the report to the City's website within two business days after receiving the report. Late independent expenditures shall be reported on subsequent campaign statements in addition to the reports filed pursuant to this section. The person shall also provide to the City Clerk three copies of the communication funded by the expenditure.

B. *Contents of Report.* The report shall specify:

- a. Each candidate or measure supported or opposed by the expenditure;
- b. The amount spent to support or oppose each candidate or measure;
- c. Whether the candidate or measure was supported or opposed;
- d. The date and amount of each expenditure;
- e. A description of the type of communication for which the expenditure was made;
- f. The name and address of the person making the expenditure; and
- g. The name and address of the payee.

C. *Notification to Candidates of Expenditures.* The City Clerk shall notify all candidates and committees in each affected race by first class mail within two business days of receiving a report filed pursuant to this section.

D. *Exemption for Regularly Published Newsletters.* For purposes of the notification required by subsection [\(A\)](#) of this section, payments by an organization for its regularly published newsletter or periodical, if the circulation is limited to the organization's members, employees, shareholders, other affiliated individuals and those who request or purchase the publication, shall not be required to be reported. (Ord. 7296-NS § 3, 2013; Ord. 7234-NS § 4, 2012)

2.12.300 Contributions--Written instrument required when.

All monetary contributions of fifty dollars or more shall be made by written instrument containing the name of the donor and the name of the payee. (Ord. 4948-NS (part), 1976: Ord. 4700-NS § 420, 1974)

2.12.305 Contributions--From persons using other than legal name prohibited.

No contribution shall be made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than the name by which such person is identified for legal purposes. (Ord. 4700-NS § 421, 1974)

2.12.310 Contributions--By persons on behalf of other persons prohibited.

No contribution shall be made, directly or indirectly, of anything belonging to another person or received from another person on the condition that it or part of it be used as a contribution. No contribution shall be made, directly or indirectly, by any person on behalf of another person. (Ord. 4700-NS § 422, 1974)

2.12.315 Expenditures--Report requirements--Scope.

No expenditure shall be made, other than overhead or normal operating expenses, by an agent or independent contractor, including but not limited to an advertising agency, on behalf of or for the benefit of any candidate or committee unless it is reported by the candidate or committee as if the expenditure were made directly by the candidate or committee. The agent or independent contractor shall make known to the candidate or committee all information required to be reported by this section. This section is intended as a limitation and does not authorize any expenditures which are otherwise prohibited by this chapter. (Ord. 4700-NS § 423, 1974)

2.12.320 Anonymous contributions--Restrictions--Payment to City required when.

No person shall make an anonymous contribution or contributions to a candidate, committee or any other person totaling more than fifty dollars in a calendar year. An anonymous contribution of more than fifty dollars shall not be kept by the intended recipient but instead shall be promptly paid to the City Auditor for deposit in the Fair Elections - Fund of the City. (Ord. 7564-NS § 6, 2017: Ord. 4948-NS (part), 1976: Ord. 4700-NS § 424, 1974)

2.12.325 Mass mailings--Copies to commission.

A copy of every mass mailing in support of or in opposition to a candidate or measure shall be sent to the commission. Such copies sent to the commission shall be public record. (Ord. 4977-NS § 1 (part), 1977; Ord. 4700-NS § 425, 1974)

2.12.330 Mass mailings by independent expenditure.

When a mass mailing which supports or opposes any candidate for Berkeley elective office or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot measure is paid for by independent expenditures a completed statement in the following form must appear on the envelope and on each page or fold of the mass mailing in no less than 10-point type, not subject to the half-tone or screening process, and in a printed or drawn box set apart from any other printed matter in the mailing:

NOTICE TO VOTERS

(Required by City of Berkeley)

This mailing is not authorized or approved by any City of Berkeley election official, candidate for elective office or campaign committee.

It is paid for by

(Name)

(Address, City, State)

(Ord. 6096-NS § 2 (part), 1991)

2.12.335 Disclosure on campaign communications of certain contributions and loans.

A. Campaign communications supporting or opposing any candidate or measure shall include the name of the committee and the phrase "Major Funding Provided By" immediately followed by the name of the contributor, the city of domicile, and the total cumulative sum of contributions by each of the top four contributors over \$250 to the committee funding the expenditure made within six months of the expenditure. For purposes of this section, the term "contributor" shall include lender, and committees shall aggregate contributions and any loan balances from the same person when determining the total cumulative sum of contributions from a contributor.

B. The disclosures required by this section shall list contributors in descending order by the cumulative total amount of their contributions and shall be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner to give the reader,

observer, or listener adequate notice. For all communications, the complete name of the contributor must be listed. No acronyms may be used. For purposes of this section, "campaign communication" means any of the following items:

1. One thousand or more substantially similar pieces of campaign literature, including but not limited to mailers, flyers, pamphlets, and door hangers;
2. Paid advertisements, including but not limited to advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and on the Internet;
3. One thousand or more substantially similar e-mails or pre-recorded telephone calls made within a calendar month.

C. For purposes of this section, "campaign communication" does not include: small promotional items such as pens, pencils, clothing, mugs, potholders, or other items on which the statement required by this section cannot be reasonably printed or displayed in an easily legible typeface; posters, yard or street signs, billboards, supergraphic signs, skywriting, and similar items; television, cable, satellite, and radio broadcasts or advertisements; communications paid for by a newspaper, radio station, television station or other recognized news medium; and communications from an organization to its members.

D. When a new contribution changes the list of contributors required to be disclosed on campaign communications under subsection A, campaign communications must be updated on the following schedule:

1. For printed campaign communications under subsection B.1 or subsection B.2, disclosures must be updated within seven calendar days to include current disclosure information every time an order to reproduce the campaign communication is placed, or any time the campaign communication is reprinted;
2. For e-mails or pre-recorded telephone calls under subsection B.3, disclosures must be updated to include current disclosure information within seven calendar days. (Ord. 7253-NS § 1, 2012)

2.12.405 Measures--Compensation for petition circulation--Disclosure.

If compensation is received by any person for obtaining signatures or for the circulation of petitions to place a measure on the ballot, the terms of such compensation shall be clear and visible on the signature sheet of the petition. (Ord. 5895-NS § 1, 1988; Ord. 4700-NS § 517, 1974)

2.12.415 Persons other than candidate--Maximum permitted amount.

No person other than a candidate shall make and no campaign treasurer shall solicit or accept any contribution which will cause the total amount contributed by such person with respect to a single election in support of or in opposition to such candidate to exceed two hundred fifty dollars. The Commission shall adjust the dollar amount in this Section for cost of living changes pursuant to Section [2.12.075](#) in January of every odd-numbered year. For

purposes of this section single election is a primary, general, special, runoff or recall election. (Ord. 7793-NS § 1, 2021; Ord. 5895-NS § 1, 1988; Ord. 4700-NS § 600, 1974)

2.12.435 Excess amounts--Payment to City required.

If any person is found guilty of violating the terms of this chapter, each campaign treasurer who received part or all of the contribution or contributions which constitute the violation shall pay promptly, from available campaign funds, if any, the amount received from such persons in excess of the amount permitted by this chapter to the City for deposit in the Fair Elections Fund of the City. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.4, 2016; Ord. 4700-NS § 604, 1974)

2.12.440 Contributions from certain organizations and business entities prohibited.

No proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, including non-profit corporations, or labor union shall make a contribution to any candidate or committee (supporting or opposing any candidate) directly or indirectly, and no campaign treasurer (of any such committee) shall solicit or accept such contribution. (Ord. 6096-NS § 1, 1991; Ord. 4701-NS § 1 (part), 1974; Ord. 4700-NS § 605, 1974)

2.12.445 Complaints--Filing, investigation and commission action.

Any person who believes that a violation of any portion of this chapter has occurred may file a complaint with the commission. If the commission determines that there is reason to believe a violation of this chapter has occurred, it shall make an investigation. If the commission has reason to believe that a violation of this chapter has occurred or is about to occur, it may institute action at law or equity to enforce and compel compliance with the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 4700-NS § 710, 1974)

2.12.450 Actions for compliance--Who is authorized to institute.

Any resident of the City who believes that a violation of this chapter has occurred or is about to occur, may institute such action at law or equity for injunctive relief and to compel compliance with the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 4700-NS § 711, 1974)

2.12.455 Actions for compliance--Procedure required and commission authority.

Before instituting an action pursuant to Section [2.12.450](#), a person must file a written request with the commission asking it to commence the action. The request shall include a clear statement of the facts indicating that a cause of

action exists. The commission shall respond within seven days after receipt of the request stating whether or not it intends to file the action. If the commission states that it intends to file the action and files the action within ten days thereafter, no other action may be brought by any person unless the action brought by the commission is dismissed without prejudice. If the commission states that it does not intend to file the requested action or fails to do so, then the resident requesting that the action be brought may file and prosecute the action to enforce or compel compliance with this chapter. (Ord. 4700-NS § 712, 1974)

2.12.460 Violation--Deemed misdemeanor--Penalty.

Any person who knowingly or wilfully violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine for each violation of three times the amount the person failed to report properly, or unlawfully contributed, expended, gave or received. (Ord. 4700-NS § 700, 1974)

2.12.465 Actions for compliance--Disposition of amounts recovered.

If a judgment is entered against the defendant or defendants in an action brought under Section [2.12.450](#), the plaintiff shall receive fifty percent of the amount recovered. The remaining fifty percent shall be deposited in the Fair Elections Fund of the City. In an action brought by the Commission or the City Attorney, the entire amount recovered shall be paid to the Fair Elections Fund of the City. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.5, 2016; Ord. 4700-NS § 701, 1974)

2.12.470 Violation--Candidate's office forfeited when.

If after his or her election a candidate receives a final judgment of conviction of a violation of any provision of this chapter, the office of such candidate shall be forfeited and such office shall become vacant immediately thereupon, or on the date upon which the candidate, if he or she is not an incumbent, would otherwise take office. (Ord. 4700-NS § 702, 1974)

2.12.475 Violation--Candidacy terminated when.

If a candidate receives a final judgment of conviction of this chapter at any time prior to his or her election, his or her candidacy shall be terminated immediately and he or she shall be no longer eligible for election. (Ord. 4700-NS § 703, 1974)

2.12.480 Violation--Persons ineligible for candidacy--Time limit.

No person convicted of a violation of this chapter shall be a candidate for City elective office for a period of four years from and after the date of his or her conviction. A plea of nolo contendere shall be deemed a conviction for purposes of this section. (Ord. 4948-NS (part), 1976; Ord. 4700-NS § 704, 1974)

2.12.485 Late filing penalties.

Any candidate or committee whose only requirement to file a campaign statement or report is pursuant to Sections [2.12.270](#), [2.12.295](#), or [2.12.297](#) of this chapter and who files such report or reports after the deadlines imposed in these sections, shall, in addition to any other penalties or remedies established by this chapter, be liable for the penalties enumerated in California Government Code Section [91013](#), which is incorporated herein. (Ord. 7234-NS § 5, 2012; Ord. 6096-NS § 2 (part), 1991)

Article 8. Berkeley Fair Elections Act of 2016

2.12.490 Title and purpose.

This Article shall be known as the Berkeley Fair Elections Act of 2016. Its purposes are to:

- A. Diminish the public perception of corruption and strengthen public confidence in the governmental and election processes.
- B. Eliminate the danger of actual corruption of Berkeley officials caused by the private financing of campaigns.
- C. Help reduce the influence of private campaign contributions on Berkeley government.
- D. Reduce the impact of wealth as a determinant of whether a person becomes a candidate.
- E. Foster more meaningful participation in the political process.
- F. Provide candidates who participate in the program with sufficient resources with which to communicate with voters.
- G. Increase the accountability of elected officials to the constituents who elect them, as opposed to the contributors who fund their campaigns.
- H. Free candidates from the time needed to raise campaign money, and allow officeholders more time to carry out their official duties. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.495 Offices covered.

Candidates for the offices of Mayor, City Council, Auditor, Board of Education, and Rent Stabilization Board shall be eligible to participate in the public campaign financing program established by this chapter. (Ord. 7793-NS § 2, 2021; Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.500 Eligibility for Fair Elections campaign funding.

A. To be eligible to be certified as a participating candidate, a candidate must:

1) During the qualifying period for the election involved, choose to participate in the Fair Elections program by filing with the City a written application for certification as a participating candidate in such form as may be prescribed by the Commission, containing the identity of the candidate, the office that the candidate seeks, and the candidate's signature, under penalty of perjury, certifying that:

- a) The candidate has complied with the restrictions of this chapter during the election cycle to date;
- b) The candidate's campaign committee has filed all campaign finance reports required by law during the election cycle to date and that they are complete and accurate; and
- c) The candidate will comply with the requirements of this Act during the remainder of the election cycle and, specifically, if certified an eligible participating candidate, will comply with the requirements applicable to participating candidates.

2) Meet all requirements to be eligible to hold the office sought:

- a) For the office of Mayor, Councilmember, Auditor, or School Director, the requirements as set forth in Sections 9 and 10 of Article V of the Charter of the City of Berkeley; or
- b) For the office of Commissioner of the Rent Stabilization Board, the requirements as set forth in Section 121 of Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.

3) Before the close of the qualifying period, collect and submit at least 30 qualified contributions, from at least 30 unique contributors, of at least ten dollars (\$10), for a total dollar amount of at least five-hundred dollars (\$500).

- a) Each qualified contribution shall be acknowledged by a receipt to the contributor, with a copy retained by the candidate. The receipt shall include the contributor's signature, printed name, home address, and telephone number, if any, and the name of the candidate on whose behalf the contribution is made. In addition, the receipt shall indicate by the contributor's signature that the contributor understands that the purpose of the qualified contribution is to help the candidate qualify for Fair Elections campaign funding and that the contribution is made without coercion or reimbursement.
- b) A contribution for which a candidate has not obtained a signed and fully completed receipt shall not be counted as a qualified contribution.

4) Maintain such records of receipts and expenditures as required by the Commission;

5) Obtain and furnish to the Commission or City staff any information they may request relating to his or her campaign expenditures or contributions and furnish such documentation and other proof of compliance with this chapter as may be requested by such Commission or City staff;

6) Not make expenditures from or use his or her personal funds or funds jointly held with his or her spouse, domestic partner, or unemancipated children in connection with his or her election except as a monetary or non-monetary contribution to his or her controlled committee of \$250 or less. Contributions from a participating candidate to his or her own controlled committee are not eligible for matching funds.

7) Not accept contributions in connection with the election for which Fair Elections funds are sought other than qualified contributions, contributions not greater than fifty dollars (\$50) made by a natural person non-resident of Berkeley, or non-monetary contributions with a fair market value not greater than fifty dollars (\$50). The aggregate value of all contributions from any individual must not be greater than fifty dollars (\$50);

8) Not solicit or direct contributions in connection with any election during the election cycle in which Fair Elections funds are sought other than qualified contributions, contributions not greater than fifty dollars (\$50) made by a natural person non-resident of Berkeley, or non-monetary contributions with fair market value not greater than fifty dollars (\$50) to such candidate's-controlled committee.

9) Not accept loans from any source.

10) The City has the authority to approve a candidate's application for public financing, despite a violation by the candidate related to participation and qualification in the public financing program, if the violation is minor in scope and the candidate demonstrates a timely, good-faith effort to remedy the violation. The Commission shall adopt regulations setting forth guidelines for what constitutes a minor violation under this provision.

B. At the earliest practicable time after a candidate files with the City a written application for certification as a participating candidate, the City shall certify that the candidate is or is not eligible. Eligibility can be revoked if the Commission determines that a candidate has committed a substantial violation of the requirements of this Act, in which case all Fair Elections funds shall be repaid.

C. At the discretion of the Commission or at the applying candidate's request, the City's denial of eligibility is subject to review by the Commission. The Commission's determination is final except that it is subject to a prompt judicial review pursuant to Section [2.12.235](#).

D. If the City or Commission determines that a candidate is not eligible, the candidate is not required to comply with provisions of this Act applicable only to participating candidates. (Ord. 7793-NS § 3, 2021; Ord. 7723-NS § 1, 2020; Ord. 7691-NS § 2, 2020; Ord. 7674-NS § 1, 2019; Ord. 7564-NS § 7, 2017; Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.505 Fair Elections fund payments.

A. A candidate who is certified as an eligible participating candidate shall receive payment of Fair Elections funds equal to six-hundred percent (600 percent) of the amount of qualified contributions received by the candidate during the election cycle with respect to a single election subject to the aggregate limit on the total amount of Fair Elections funds payments to a candidate specified in Section [2.12.505.B](#).

B. The aggregate amount of Fair Elections funds payments that may be made to a participating candidate during an election cycle may not exceed:

- 1) \$129,000 for a candidate running for the office of Mayor;
- 2) \$43,000 for a candidate running for the office of City Council;
- 3) \$20,000 for a candidate running for the office of Auditor;
- 4) \$20,000 for a candidate running for the office of Board of Education;
- 5) \$8,000 for a candidate running for the office of Rent Stabilization Board.

C. A participating candidate's application for Fair Elections funds, including an initial request submitted with an application for certification as a participating candidate, shall be made using a form prescribed by the Commission and shall be accompanied by qualified contribution receipts and any other information the Commission deems necessary. This application shall be accompanied by a signed statement from the candidate indicating that all information on the qualified contribution receipts is complete and accurate to the best of the candidate's knowledge.

- 1) All Qualified Contributions, of any dollar amount, eligible for matching Fair Elections funds must be publicly disclosed with the contributor information required under Sections [2.12.280](#) and [2.12.283](#).
- 2) All campaign filings must be current in order for a Participating Candidate to receive a disbursement of Fair Elections funds and the Participating Candidate and a Participating Candidate's controlled committee must not have any outstanding fines related to campaign filings or violations of municipal, state or federal election law. All applications for Fair Elections funds shall include a certification by the Participating Candidate that the Participating Candidate or his or her controlled committee does not have any outstanding fines or penalties related to campaign filings. Upon submission of outstanding campaign filings and payment of any outstanding fines, withheld Fair Elections funds will be disbursed at the next regularly scheduled distribution for that election cycle.

D. The City shall verify that a candidate's qualified contributions meet all of the requirements and restrictions of this Act prior to the disbursement of Fair Elections funds to the candidate. A participating candidate who receives a qualified contribution that is not from the person listed on the qualified contribution receipt shall be liable to pay the Fair Elections Fund the entire amount of the inaccurately identified contribution, in addition to any penalties.

E. The City shall make an initial payment of Fair Elections funds within seven business days of the City's certification of a participating candidate's eligibility, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. City staff shall report a certification or denial to the Commission no later than the Commission's next regular meeting, consistent with the Brown Act.

F. The Commission shall establish a schedule for the submission of Fair Elections funds payment requests, permitting a candidate to submit a Fair Elections funds payment request at least once per month. However, the Commission shall schedule a minimum of three payment request submission dates within the thirty days prior to an election.

- G. The City shall provide each participating candidate with a written determination specifying the basis for any non-payment of Fair Elections funds. The Commission shall provide participating candidates with a process by which they may immediately upon receipt of such determination petition the Commission for reconsideration of any such non-payment and such reconsideration shall occur within seven business days of the filing of such petition. In the event that the Commission denies such petition then it shall immediately notify the candidate of his or her right to seek judicial review of the Commission's denial pursuant to Section [2.12.235](#).
- H. 1). Unspent campaign funds of any Participating Candidate who does not remain a candidate for the ballot at the election for which the funds were distributed, up to the total amount of funds that the participating candidate received as Fair Election Funds distributions in that election cycle and after accounting for campaign debts and expenditures, must be returned to the City within 30 (thirty) days of the determination on the qualification of the candidate. All funds returned under this paragraph must be accompanied by any required supporting documentation.
- 2). Any campaign funds that remain unspent by a Participating Candidate following the date of the election for which they were distributed, up to the total amount of funds that the Participating Candidate received as Fair Elections Funds distributions in that elections cycle and after accounting for campaign debts and expenditures, must be returned to the City, within sixty (60) days after the date of the election. All funds returned under this paragraph must be accompanied by any required supporting documentation.
- 3). All unspent campaign funds returned to the City shall be deposited in the Fair Elections Fund pursuant to the City Charter.
- 4). The City Clerk shall immediately refer to the Commission for enforcement any participating candidate who does not return unspent funds as required by this subsection.
- I. Any request by a Participating Candidate for a refund of any amount of unspent campaign funds previously repaid to the City, for a qualified campaign expenditure or other permissible campaign purpose, shall be submitted to the Commission to approve, in whole or in part, or deny. The Commission shall make a final determination on the refund within 45 days of receipt. (Ord. 7793-NS § 4, 2021: Ord. 7723-NS § 2, 2020: Ord. 7691-NS § 3, 2020: Ord. 7674-NS § 2, 2019: Ord. 7564-NS § 8, 2017: Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.510 Candidate statement notice.

A candidate certified as a Fair Elections program participant shall be identified as such by a notice printed on the same page as the candidate's statement of qualifications distributed to voters pursuant to City Charter Article III Section 6.1. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.515 Transition rule for current election cycle.

During the first election cycle that occurs after Council implementation of this Act, a candidate may be certified as a participating candidate, notwithstanding the acceptance of contributions other than qualified contributions

before the date of enactment that would, absent this Section, disqualify the candidate as a participating candidate, provided that any funds other than qualified contributions accepted but not expended before the effective date of this Act shall be:

- A. Returned to the contributor;
- B. Held in a special campaign account and used only for retiring a debt from a previous campaign; or
- C. Submitted to the City for deposit in the Fair Elections Fund. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.520 Special municipal elections.

The provisions of this chapter apply to special municipal elections as defined in City Charter Article III Section 4. The Commission shall adjust the deadlines in this Act to account for the circumstances of the special municipal election. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.525 Campaign accounts for participating candidates.

- A. During an election cycle, each participating candidate shall conduct all campaign financial activities through a single campaign expenditure and contribution account as required by Section [2.12.250](#).
- B. A participating candidate may maintain a campaign account other than the campaign account described in subsection A if the other campaign account is for the purpose of retiring a campaign debt that was incurred during a previous election campaign in which the candidate was not a participating candidate.
- C. Contributions for the purposes of a retiring a previous campaign debt that are deposited in the kind of "other campaign account" described in subsection B shall not be considered "contributions" to the candidate's current campaign.
- D. Participating candidates shall file reports of financial activity related to the current election cycle separately from reports of financial activity related to previous election cycles. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.530 Use of Fair Elections funds.

- A. A participating candidate shall use Fair Elections funds and contributions only for direct campaign purposes to further the candidate's own campaign for the relevant office and election cycle.
- B. A participating candidate shall not use Fair Elections funds or contributions for:
 - 1) Costs of legal defense in any campaign law enforcement proceeding under this Act, or penalties arising from violations of any local, state, or federal campaign laws;

- 2) The candidate's personal support or compensation to the candidate the candidate's family, or a business in which the candidate or candidate's immediate family member has a ten (10) percent or greater ownership interest;
 - 3) Indirect campaign purposes, including but not limited to:
 - a) Any expense that provides a direct personal benefit to the candidate, including clothing and other items related to the candidate's personal appearance;
 - b) Capital assets having a value in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) and useful life extending beyond the end of the current election period determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) A contribution or loan to the campaign committee of another candidate or to a party committee or other political committee;
 - d) An independent expenditure as defined in Berkeley Municipal Code Section [2.12.142](#) as may be amended;
 - e) Any payment or transfer for which compensating value is not received
- C. The term "Contribution" is defined in [2.12.100](#) and includes "Qualified Contributions" as defined in [2.12.167](#) and contributions from non-residents of Berkeley as described in [2.12.500.A.7](#).
- D. The dollar amounts in Section [2.12.530.B.3.b](#) may be adjusted for cost-of-living changes by the Commission through regulation, pursuant to Section [2.12.545](#). (Ord. 7793-NS § 5, 2021: Ord. 7691-NS § 4, 2020: Ord. 7674-NS § 3, 2019: Ord. 7564-NS § 9, 2017: Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.535 Administrative modification of timelines.

Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the contrary, the Commission may alter any of the time periods or deadlines listed herein if it finds that they are impracticable, so long as the readjusted period or deadline meets the objectives of this chapter. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.540 Insufficient funds in the program.

If the Commission determines that there are insufficient funds in the Fair Elections Fund to fund adequately all participating candidates, the Commission shall notify participating candidates that the Commission will not likely be capable of distributing to all participating candidates the maximum aggregate amount of Fair Elections funds payments permissible under Section [2.12.505.B](#). Under such circumstances, at such time as the Commission is unable to fulfill a valid application for Fair Elections funds submitted by a participating candidate pursuant to Section [2.12.505.C](#), the participating candidate may solicit for such candidate's controlled committee and accept

any contributions permissible under City law and shall no longer be subject to the restriction on use of personal funds established by Section [2.12.500.A.6](#). (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.545 Cost of living adjustments.

The Commission shall adjust the dollar amounts specified in Sections [2.12.167](#), [2.12.500.A.3](#), [2.12.505.B](#) and [2.12.530.B.3.b](#) for cost of living changes pursuant to Section [2.12.075](#) in January of every odd-numbered year following Council implementation. Such adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest ten dollars (\$10) with respect to Sections [2.12.167](#), [2.12.500.A.3](#) and [2.12.530.B.3.b](#) and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) with respect to Section [2.12.505.B](#). (Ord. 7691-NS § 5, 2020: Ord. 7564-NS § 10, 2017: Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.550 Fair Elections Act penalties.

In addition to other enforcement and penalty provisions of this Article:

- A. It is a violation of the law for candidates to accept more Fair Elections Act benefits than those to which they are entitled or misuse such benefits or Fair Elections funding.
- B. If a participating candidate knowingly or willfully accepts or spends Fair Elections funding in violation of this Act, then the candidate shall repay to the Fair Elections Fund an amount equal to twice the value of Fair Elections funding unlawfully accepted or spent.
- C. The Commission shall, after a hearing held pursuant to Section [2.12.230](#), have the authority to impose the fine created by this section upon a two-thirds vote. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.555 Violation--Persons ineligible for public funds--Time limit.

No person who commits a substantial violation of this chapter shall be eligible to receive public funds for a period of four years from and after the date that the Commission determines, upon a two-thirds vote, that such a violation has occurred, following a hearing held pursuant to Section [2.12.230](#). The Commission shall by regulation state the criteria to be satisfied in order to make a finding of a substantial violation. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

2.12.560 Review by Commission.

After each of the first two election cycles that occur after Council implementation of this Act, the Commission shall review the Fair Elections program and make recommendations to Council for policy changes to improve and refine the program. (Ord. 7524-NS § 3.6 (part), 2016)

The Berkeley Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 7795-NS, passed January 18, 2022.

Disclaimer: The City Clerk's Office has the official version of the Berkeley Municipal Code. Users should contact the City Clerk's Office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

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