

Chapter 12.05 - ELECTIONS

12.05.010 - Superseding conflicting state laws.

In accordance with Charter Section 1602, the provisions of this chapter supersede any conflicting provisions in the California Elections or Government Codes.

(Ord. 25214.)

12.05.020 - Scheduling of city municipal elections.

- A. A regular municipal election which is a regularly scheduled primary election shall be held on the same date that the state of California holds its direct primary election.
- B. A regular municipal election which is a run-off municipal election shall be held on the same date that the state of California holds its statewide general election.

(Ord. 25214.)

12.05.030 - Time for notice of election.

The city clerk shall publish a notice of the city election which meets the standards of Section 6061 of the California Government Code, not earlier than the one hundred thirteenth nor later than the eighty-eighth day before any city municipal election to fill offices.

(Ord. 25214.)

12.05.040 - Nomination petitions.

- A. Each candidate for city elective office shall be nominated by not less than fifty registered voters in the city. Not more than seventy-five signatures of registered voters shall be accepted and counted.
- B. Voters signing nomination papers for the office of member of the council, except the mayor, shall be residents of the district by which the member is to be elected.
- C. Voters signing nomination papers for the office of mayor shall be residents of the city and may reside anywhere in the city.
- D. No person shall offer or give money or other valuable consideration to another in exchange for his or her signature on a nomination paper.

(Ords. 25214, 29310.)

12.05.050 - Circulation of nomination petitions.

- A. Any person who circulates a nomination paper for the office of member of the council, except mayor, shall be registered to vote at the election in the district by which the member is to be elected.
- B. Persons circulating nomination papers for the office of mayor shall be registered to vote at the election in any part of the city.

(Ord. 25214.)

12.05.060 - Nomination papers and filing deadline.

- A. The voters may nominate candidates for election by signing a nomination paper not earlier than the one hundred thirteenth day nor later than twelve noon on the eighty-eighth day before a city municipal election.

- B. All nomination papers shall be filed with the city clerk not later than twelve noon on the eighty-eighth day before the city municipal election, except as provided in subsection C. below.
- C. If nomination papers for an eligible incumbent elective officer of the city are not filed by twelve noon on the eighty-eighth day before the election, nomination papers for candidates other than the incumbent elective officer for such elective office may be filed with the city clerk until twelve noon on the eighty-third day before the election.

(Ord. 25214.)

12.05.070 - Number of nomination papers.

More than one nomination paper may be circulated and filed for a candidate.

(Ord. 25214.)

12.05.080 - Formal written advice from city attorney.

Any person may request the city attorney to provide written advice with respect to the person's duties under the provisions of Chapter 12.05 and Chapter 12.06. The city attorney must provide the advice within twenty-one working days of the request, provided that the time may be extended for good cause. It shall be a complete defense in any enforcement proceeding before the ethics commission, and evidence of good faith conduct in any other civil or criminal proceeding, if the requestor, at least twenty-one working days before the alleged violation, requested written advice from the city attorney in good faith, disclosed truthfully all the material facts, and committed the acts complained of either in reliance on the advice or because of the failure of the city attorney to provide advice within twenty-one days of the request or such later extended time.

(Ords. 28660, 29642.)

Chapter 12.06 - MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN AND OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS

Part 1 - DEFINITIONS

12.06.010 - Definitions.

The following definitions used in this chapter shall have the meanings set forth below. Except as otherwise provided here, the terms and provisions of this chapter shall be interpreted in accordance with the applicable definitions and provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended (Government Code Section 81000 et seq.) and the regulations of the California fair political practices commission, as amended.

(Ords. 24466, 24577, 25257, 26440, 27291.)

12.06.020 - Business entity.

"Business entity" shall mean any organization or enterprise operated for profit, including but not limited to a proprietorship, partnership, firm, business trust, joint venture, syndicate, corporation or association.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440.)

12.06.030 - Candidate.

"Candidate" shall mean an individual who:

- A. Is listed on the ballot; or

- B. Has qualified to have write-in votes on his or her behalf counted by election officials for nomination or election to any elective city office; or
- C. Has given his or her consent for any other person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with the intention of bringing about his or her nomination for or election to any elective city office, whether or not the specific elective office for which he or she will seek nomination or election is known at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made and whether or not he or she has announced his or her candidacy or filed a declaration of candidacy; or
- D. Has filed a form "statement of intention" to be a candidate with the city clerk.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25525, 26440, 28213.)

12.06.040 - Committee.

"Committee" means any person or combination of persons who, directly or indirectly, does any of the following:

- A. Receives contributions totaling one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in a calendar year; or
- B. Makes independent expenditures totaling one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in a calendar year; or
- C. Makes contributions totaling ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more in a calendar year to or at the behest of a candidate or controlled committee.

A person or combination of persons that becomes a committee will retain its status as a committee until such time as that status is terminated pursuant to California Government Code Section 84214.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25447, 26440, 28624.)

12.06.050 - Contribution.

- A. "Contribution" means:
 1. Any payment, loan, forgiveness or postponement of a loan, payment of a loan by a third party, or an enforceable promise to make a payment except to the extent that full and adequate consideration is received, or it is clear from the surrounding circumstances that the contribution is not made for political purposes.
 2. An expenditure benefiting a candidate or committee made at the behest of a candidate, candidate controlled committee or elected officeholder is a contribution to the candidate, committee or elected officeholder unless full and adequate consideration is received for making the expenditure.
- B. Contributions include the purchase of tickets for events such as dinners, luncheons, rallies and similar fund-raising events; the granting of discounts or rebates not extended to the public generally or the granting of discounts or rebates by television and radio stations and newspapers not extended on an equal basis to all candidates for the same office; the payment of compensation by any person for the personal services or expenses of any other person, if such services are rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of a candidate or committee without payment of full and adequate consideration; and the transfer of any tangible thing of value.
- C.

The payment of salary, reimbursement for personal services or other compensation by an employer to an employee who spends any of his or her compensated time rendering services for political purposes related to a city candidate or committee is a contribution or an expenditure if:

1. The employee renders services at the request or direction of the employer; or
2. The employee, with the consent of the employer, is relieved of any normal working responsibilities related to his or her employment in order to render the personal services, unless the employee engages in political activity on bona fide, although compensable, vacation time or pursuant to a uniform policy allowing employees to engage in political activity.

- D. Payments made by an individual for his or her own travel expenses if such payments are made voluntarily without any understanding or agreement that they shall be directly or indirectly repaid to him or her, or independent expenditures made by independent committees are not deemed to be contributions for purposes of this chapter. In addition, personal or professional services donated to a campaign by an individual are not deemed to be contributions for purposes of this chapter. Any other payment or service not defined as a contribution in this section is also not deemed to be a contribution for purposes of this chapter.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28280, 28624, 28985.)

12.06.060 - Controlled committee.

"Controlled committee" shall mean a committee which is controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate or which acts jointly with a candidate or controlled committee in connection with the making of expenditures. A candidate controls a committee if such candidate, his or her agent, or any other committee such candidate controls, has a significant influence on the actions or decisions of the committee.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440.)

12.06.080 - Election.

"Election" and "city election" mean any regular municipal or special municipal election in the city.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28624.)

12.06.110 - Fair political practices commission.

"Fair political practices commission" is the body charged with administering the Political Reform Act and adopting implementing regulations.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440.)

12.06.120 - Independent committee.

"Independent committee" shall mean all committees other than controlled committees.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440.)

12.06.130 - Independent expenditure.

"Independent expenditure" means an expenditure made by any person in connection with a communication which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, or the qualification, passage or defeat of a clearly identified measure, or taken as a whole and in context, unambiguously urges a particular result in an election, but which is not made to or at the behest of the affected candidate or his or her controlled committee.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 27291, 28624.)

12.06.140 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 29642, § 4, adopted Oct. 27, 2015, repealed § 12.06.140, which pertained to late contribution and derived from Ord. 28985.

12.06.150 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 28213, § 1, adopted January 8, 2008, repealed § 12.06.150, which pertained to officeholder contributions.

12.06.160 - Person.

"Person," for purposes of this chapter, shall include an individual, business entity, foundation, organization, committee or association, nonprofit corporation, and any other organization or group of people acting in concert.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440.)

12.06.170 - Political Reform Act.

"Political Reform Act" is the California Political Reform Act of 1974 (Government Code Sections 81000 et seq., as amended).

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28624.)

12.06.180 - Statement of intention to be a candidate.

The form "statement of intention" is a written statement, filed with city clerk in accordance with Government Code Section 85200 and regulations thereunder, declaring intention to be a candidate for a specific elective city office.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25525, 26440, 28213.)

Part 2 - CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

12.06.200 - Intent and purpose.

It is the intent of the city council of the City of San José in enacting this chapter to place realistic and enforceable limits on the amount individuals and independent committees may contribute to political campaigns in municipal office elections for the purpose of preventing the perception by the public that campaign contributors exercise undue or improper influence over elected officials. In order to achieve this purpose it is not necessary to, nor is it the city council's intent to, impose limitations on individuals and committees whose sole objective is the passage or defeat of ballot measures.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440.)

12.06.210 - Campaign contribution limitations.

A.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the total campaign contribution made by any person to any council candidate and any controlled committee of that candidate, other than the candidate in aid of himself or herself, may not exceed:

1. Five hundred dollars for the primary election;
 2. Five hundred dollars for the general election, if any;
 3. Five hundred dollars for any special election;
 4. Five hundred dollars for any special run-off election, if any.
- B. Beginning January 1, 2011, the total campaign contribution made by any person to any mayoral candidate and any controlled committee of that candidate, other than the candidate in aid of himself or herself, may not exceed:
1. One thousand dollars for the primary election;
 2. One thousand dollars for the general election, if any;
 3. One thousand dollars for any special election;
 4. One thousand dollars for any special run-off election, if any.
- C. Beginning September 1, 2013, and thereafter on September 1 of each odd-numbered year, the city clerk must determine whether the cost of living, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items (with a base period of 1982 - 1984 = 100) for all urban consumers in the San Francisco-Oakland-San José area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased during the "base period" as defined in this section. The base period for the first adjustment (September 1, 2013) will be the CPI reported for the months of December 2010 and June 2013. For the second adjustment (September 1, 2015), the base period will be the CPI reported for the months of December 2010 and June 2015. The base period for subsequent adjustments will be December 2010 to June for odd-numbered years. If the CPI has increased for the applicable base period, the city clerk must multiply the contribution limits established in Subsections A. and B. by the percentage increase for the base period. If the calculation results in an amount that is higher than the previously established contribution limit(s) when rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars, the city clerk will then increase the corresponding contribution limit(s) established in Subsections A. and/or B. by the percentage increase rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars and recommend that the city council adopt a resolution specifying the adjusted contribution limit(s). In the event the city council adopts a resolution specifying the contribution limits, the city clerk will publish the contribution limits no later than December 1 of each odd-numbered year, beginning on December 1, 2013. In the event the CPI is no longer published, the clerk shall use as a reference another index published by either the State of California or a federal department or agency that is charged with the responsibility of measuring the cost of living in the geographical area that includes the City of San José.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 24845, 25257, 25445, 26440, 28654, 28861, 28985, 29642.)

12.06.215 - Contribution limitations to city council and mayoral candidates.

No person shall make nor shall any person solicit or accept any contribution which will cause the total amount contributed by such person to a council candidate, mayoral candidate or any controlled committee of that candidate, other than the candidate in aid of himself or herself, to exceed the campaign contribution limitations set forth in Section 12.06.210.

(Ord. 29310.)

12.06.220 - Applicability to agents.

- A. "Agent" shall mean any person who has express or implied authority to make or to authorize the making of expenditures on behalf of a candidate, or who has been placed in a position within the campaign organization where it would reasonably appear that in the ordinary course of campaign-related activities he or she may authorize expenditures. An "agent" is also any person who is serving or has served in an advisory, decision-making, or strategic role with a candidate's campaign, with or without compensation, where that person's duties and/or actions reflect or require direct knowledge of the candidate's campaign strategy, plans and needs.
- B. The prohibitions and requirements of this chapter applicable to a candidate shall also apply to the candidate's agent.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 27291.)

12.06.230 - Anonymous contributions.

- A. No person may make nor may any person solicit or accept any anonymous contribution, gift, subscription, loan, advance, deposit, pledge or promise of money or anything of value for a clearly identified candidate for San José city council or mayor.
- B. All anonymous contributions must be surrendered to the director of finance for deposit in the general fund of the city, earmarked to defray the costs of municipal elections.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28654.)

12.06.235 - Information needed prior to deposit.

No contribution of any amount shall be deposited into a campaign account unless the name, address, occupation and employer of the contributor is on file in the written records of the candidate receiving the contribution.

(Ords. 25257, 26440.)

12.06.240 - Contributions through other persons prohibited.

In applying the limitations set forth in this chapter to the contributions of a person, each contribution made under any of the following circumstances shall be deemed to have been made by the person and shall be included in determining whether the applicable limitation for such person has been exceeded:

- A. A contribution by an employee over whom the person exercises control as a supervisor or as an owner of the business entity for which the employee works, where the contribution was coerced by the person or made at his or her instigation from monies given or promised to the employee as a gift, bonus or other form of reimbursement for the contribution.
- B. A contribution of a spouse or child of the person where the contribution is coerced by the person or made from monies given or promised by the person in instigation of the contribution.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25447, 26440.)

12.06.250 - Contributions by certain business entities prohibited.

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, contributions by business entities shall be defined and limited in accordance with the Political Reform Act as amended.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25447, 26440, 28280.)

12.06.260 - Prohibited contributions - Cardrooms.

- A. A cardroom, cardroom owner, officer of a cardroom, key management employee of a cardroom, spouse of a cardroom owner or spouse of a cardroom officer may not make any contribution to candidates or candidate controlled committees under this chapter.
- B. Cardroom and cardroom owner are as defined in Chapter 16.02 of this code.
- C. A key management employee of a cardroom is any person who has the authority to hire or fire other employees.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28624, 28624.)

12.06.270 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 28654, § 3, adopted November 3, 2009, repealed § 12.06.270, which pertained to contribution limitations to city council candidates.

12.06.280 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 28654, § 4, adopted November 3, 2009, repealed § 12.06.280, which pertained to contribution limitations to mayoral candidates.

12.06.290 - Campaign contribution collection period.

- A. No person shall solicit or accept any campaign contribution or deposit any contributions for any campaign into any municipal campaign bank account except during the campaign contribution period.
- B. The campaign contribution period for the primary municipal election for council or mayor shall:
 - 1. Begin on the one hundred eightieth day before the primary municipal election.
 - 2. End at 11:59 p.m. on the day before the primary municipal election.
- C. The campaign contribution period for the run-off municipal election for council or mayor shall:
 - 1. Begin on the day after the primary municipal election for that office.
 - 2. End at 11:59 p.m. on the day before a run-off municipal election for that office.
- D. Any contribution which is received outside of the campaign contribution period for an election shall not be accepted or deposited but shall be returned to the contributor or donor within five business days.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25525, 25942, 26440, 28213, 28985, 29642.)

12.06.295 - Deposit of personal funds into campaign bank accounts.

- A. A candidate must disclose the source of all personal funds deposited into his or her campaign bank account. If the source of the funds is a loan to the candidate, the name and address of the lender and the terms of the loan must also be disclosed.
- B. The information required by Subsection A. must be reported, on a form provided by the city clerk, on or before the date of the next pre-election statement, which must be filed after the funds are deposited into the campaign bank account.
- C. A candidate may deposit personal funds into his or her campaign bank account up to 11:59 p.m. on the one hundred eightieth day after the day of the election for the purpose of paying outstanding debt as set forth in Section 12.06.710.
- D. No candidate shall make loans to his or her own campaign or campaign committee where the outstanding total, at any one point in time, is more than twenty thousand dollars.

- E. Except as provided in this section, nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a candidate from making unlimited contributions to his or her own campaign.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28985, 29310, 29642.)

Part 4 - TRANSFER OF FUNDS

12.06.410 - Prohibition on transfer of funds.

- A. The transfer of any city campaign funds to any other person's city campaign fund is prohibited.
- B. The transfer of any city campaign contribution to any other candidate's noncity campaign fund is prohibited.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28212.)

12.06.420 - Disclosure - Transfers to a candidate's own city and noncity campaign.

- A. No contribution collected for any city campaign fund may be transferred to another campaign fund of the candidate, unless a written disclosure appeared on all materials printed by the campaign committee during the campaign, which informed potential donors that such contributions are subject to being transferred to the candidate's own city and noncity campaigns, at any time, at the discretion of the candidate.
- B. The disclosure required by this section shall consist of the following statement in fourteen point type: Any contribution to this campaign may be transferred to this candidate's campaign for reelection or another city or noncity campaign at (name of the candidate's) sole discretion.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 25447, 26440.)

12.06.430 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 28213, § 3, adopted January 8, 2008, repealed § 12.06.430, which pertained to transfer of city officeholder funds.

Part 6 - SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

12.06.600 - Special municipal elections.

- A. Except as otherwise provided by this Part 6, the provisions of Chapter 12.06 shall apply to special municipal elections. This Part 6 of Chapter 12.06 shall only apply to special municipal elections which do not exceed a six-month period from the call of the special municipal election to the date of a special municipal run-off election if any.
- B. The prohibition on transfers of any city campaign funds to any other person's city campaign fund in Section 12.06.410 shall apply to any special municipal election.
- C. The prohibition on transfers of any city campaign funds to any other candidate's noncity campaign fund in Section 12.06.410 shall apply to any special municipal election.
- D. The disclosure requirements for transfers of city campaign funds to a candidate's own city and noncity campaign in Section 12.06.420 shall apply to any special municipal election.

(Ords. 26239, 26440, 28212, 29642.)

12.06.610 - Campaign contribution collection period.

The campaign contribution collection periods for a special municipal election and a special municipal run-off election shall:

- A. Begin on the date that the special municipal election is set by the city council and begin the day after the special municipal election for any run-off election.

- B. End at 11:59 p.m. on the day before the election and any run-off election.

(Ords. 26239, 26440, 28213, 28985, 29642.)

12.06.620 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 29642, § 4, adopted Oct. 27, 2015, repealed § 12.06.620, which pertained to voluntary campaign expenditure limits program - special election, and derived from Ords. 26239 and 26440.

Part 7 - DEBT RETIREMENT, AND SURPLUS CAMPAIGN FUNDS

12.06.710 - Deadline for debt retirement.

- A. No money can be collected for debt retirement after the end of the campaign contribution collection period as set forth in Section 12.06.290.
- B. A candidate must retire all campaign-related debts, including loans, within one hundred eighty days after the date of the election.
- C. A campaign-related debt, including any loan, which remains unpaid more than one hundred eighty days after the election is deemed to have been a campaign contribution which was accepted at the time the debt was incurred.
- D. It is a violation of this section to forgive all or part of a loan or debt which is owed to the person by a candidate and which exceeds the applicable contribution limitations. Forgiveness of a loan or debt shall not be deemed to include the failure to collect the loan or debt where there have been substantial attempts, in good faith, to collect the monies owed and such efforts have proved unsuccessful. In such case, a candidate is not exonerated from violations of this chapter if an outstanding loan or debt exceeds the contribution limitations.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 29642.)

12.06.720 - Surplus campaign funds.

Any remaining campaign funds in excess of expenses incurred for allowable expenses as specified under the Political Reform Act, shall be deemed to be surplus campaign funds. Within one hundred eighty days after withdrawal, defeat, or election to office, the surplus campaign funds shall be returned to the contributors on a pro rata basis, or turned over to the general fund of the city.

(Ords. 25257, 26440, 28212, 29642.)

Part 8 - OFFICEHOLDER ACCOUNTS

12.06.810 - Officeholder account prohibited.

No city officeholder, or any person or committee on behalf of a city officeholder may establish an officeholder account or an account established under the Political Reform Act, California Government Code Section 8100 et seq. as amended, for the solicitation or expenditure of officeholder funds. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an officeholder from spending personal funds on official or related business activities.

(Ord. 28212.)

Part 9 - CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

12.06.910 - Statements and reporting requirements.

- A.

Each candidate and candidate controlled committee receiving contributions or making expenditures in a city election must file with the city clerk campaign disclosure statements in the form and at the times required by Chapter 12.06 and the Political Reform Act. The campaign disclosure statements may be completed on forms required to be filed by the regulations of the fair political practices commission so long as such forms are completed in sufficient detail to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

- B. Each candidate must file with the city clerk, at the time nomination papers are filed pursuant to Section 12.05.060, a declaration by the candidate or treasurer of the candidate controlled committee that the candidate or candidate controlled committee has not accepted nor solicited, and will not accept nor solicit any campaign contribution in violation of the requirements and limitations of this chapter.
- C. When listing contributions, each candidate and candidate controlled committee receiving contributions or making expenditures in a city election must itemize all contributions accepted during the campaign contribution collection periods specified in this chapter, including all amounts less than one hundred dollars.
- D. Each independent committee that makes independent expenditures in a city election must file with the city clerk campaign disclosure statements in the form and at the times required by the Political Reform Act.
- E. The first and second campaign statements must be filed at the times prescribed for pre-election statements by the Political Reform Act as well as any other times prescribed in Chapter 12.06, for candidates, candidate controlled committees and independent committees for whom the city clerk is the regular filing official.
- F. Each candidate and candidate controlled committee must file a third campaign statement by noon on the day before the election. The third campaign statement shall cover the period commencing after the closing date of the second pre-election campaign statement required in Subsection E. above through 11:59 p.m. on the day before the third campaign statement is due.
- G. If any candidate, candidate controlled committee or independent committee for whom the city clerk is the regular filing official files a campaign disclosure statement after any deadline imposed by this chapter, the city clerk shall fine the delinquent filer ten dollars per day, starting the day after the filing deadline, until the statement is filed; however, no liability may exceed the cumulative amount of reported contributions or expenditures, or one hundred dollars, whichever is greater. The city clerk may reduce or waive the fine if he or she determines that the late filing was not willful and that enforcement will not further the purposes of this chapter.
- H. The city clerk has the authority to require the candidate, candidate controlled committee or independent committee for whom the city clerk is the regular filing official to file an amendment to a filing. The filer shall submit the required amendment to a filing within thirty calendar days of notification. Should the filer not comply with this timeline, the city clerk shall fine the delinquent filer ten dollars per day, starting the day after the filing deadline, until the amendment is filed; however, no liability may exceed the cumulative amount of reported contributions or expenditures, or one hundred dollars, whichever is greater. The city clerk may reduce or waive the fine if he or she determines that the late filing was not willful and that enforcement will not further the purpose of this chapter.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 24733, 25257, 26440, 28624, 28861, 29310, 29642.)

12.06.915 - Electronic campaign disclosure.

- A. Each candidate, candidate controlled committee and independent committee for whom the city clerk is the regular filing official that is required to file campaign disclosure statements by Chapter 12.06 or the political reform act shall file the statement in an electronic format with the city clerk, provided the city clerk has prescribed the format at least sixty days before the statement is due to be filed.
- B. Once a candidate or committee is subject to the electronic filing requirements imposed by this section, the candidate or committee will remain subject to the electronic filing requirements until the candidate or committee files a termination statement pursuant to Chapter 12.06 and the political reform act.

(Ords. 28678, 29310, 29363.)

12.06.920 - Duties of the city clerk.

- A. The city clerk shall, at least five days before an election for mayor or city council of the City of San José, prepare a report containing the following information as of seven days before the election:
 - 1. The total amount of contributions and expenditures for (a) each of the candidates; and (b) each candidate controlled committee; and
 - 2. The total amount of independent expenditures made by each independent committee in an election for mayor or members of city council of the City of San José.
- B. The report shall be translated into those languages designated by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters as required by law for election materials, and the clerk shall disseminate the report two days before the election in the following manner:
 - 1. Issued as a press release to the list of media outlets maintained by the city's public information officer; and
 - 2. Posted on the city clerk's website.
- C. In the event the city clerk has reason to believe a violation under this part has occurred, the clerk must notify the ethics commission.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 28624, 28861, 28985, 29642.)

12.06.930 - Disclosure of post-election payment agreements.

- A. A candidate or his or her controlled committee must disclose, on a form provided by the city clerk, any campaign-related agreements entered into by the candidate or controlled committee which provide for post-election payments. Such agreements include, but are not limited to, contingency payment or "bonus" payment plans offered by campaign consultants and agreements with persons who will receive compensation after the election for campaign services performed prior to the election.
- B. A post-election payment agreement must be reported on or before the filing date of the next pre-election statement which must be filed after the agreement is entered into.

(Ords. 24499, 24577, 25257, 26440, 29642.)

Part 10 - ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS^[3]

Footnotes:

--- (3) ---

Editor's note—Ord. No. 28624, § 13, adopted August 11, 2009, repealed Part 10, §§ 12.06.1000 - 12.06.1030, which pertained to campaign communications, and re-enacted Part 10 as set forth herein.

12.06.1000 - Electioneering communication.

- A. "Electioneering communication" means any form of communication, for which payment is made by a candidate, controlled committee or independent committee, that refers to a clearly identified candidate for mayor or city council of the City of San José and is disseminated, broadcast, or otherwise published within ninety calendar days prior to an election for which the candidate is on the ballot.
- B. If Subsection A. is held to be constitutionally insufficient by final judicial decision to support the regulation provided in this part, then the term "electioneering communication" means any form of communication, for which payment is made, which promotes or supports a candidate for mayor or city council of the City of San José, or attacks or opposes a candidate for mayor or city council of the City of San José (regardless of whether the communication expressly advocates a vote for or against a candidate), and which also is suggestive of no plausible meaning other than an exhortation to vote for or against a specific candidate.

(Ords. 28624, 29642.)

12.06.1010 - Disclosure of electioneering communications.

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, disclaimers of electioneering communication shall be made pursuant to the Political Reform Act, California Government Code Section 81000 et seq., as amended.
- B. Every electioneering communication in printed form paid for by an independent committee must place the following statement on the communication in typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no smaller than twelve-point font for communication no larger than eleven inches by seventeen inches (or equivalent area for non-rectangular dimensions) or is no smaller than five percent of the printable height for communication larger than eleven inches by seventeen inches (or equivalent area for non-rectangular dimensions):

Notice to Voters

(Required by the City of San José)

This electioneering communication is not authorized or approved by any candidate for city office or by any election official. It is paid for by (committee name and committee identification number).

(Address, city, state).

Total cost of this mailing is (amount).

If an acronym is used to specify a committee name, the full name of any sponsoring person of the committee must be included in the notice disclosure required by this section.

- C. Every electioneering communication in spoken form must include the words "paid for by" immediately followed by the name of the candidate, controlled committee or independent committee that paid for the communication in a manner that is clearly audible and at the same general volume and speed as the rest of the communication.
- D. Any independent committee for whom the city clerk is the regular filing official that makes a payment or payments or a promise of a payment or payments that cumulatively total one thousand dollars or more for an electioneering communication must file with the city clerk a report on a form approved by the city clerk, disclosing the independent committee's name, address, occupation, and employer, and the amount of the payment. The report must be filed

within twenty-four hours of making the payment or the promise to make the payment, and must be accompanied by a legible copy of the electioneering communication if in printed form or a transcript of the electioneering communication if in spoken form.

- E. Except as provided in this section, if any independent committee for whom the city clerk is the regular filing official has received a payment or a promise of a payment from another person totaling one hundred dollars, or more specifically, for the purpose of making the electioneering communication, the independent committee receiving the payment must disclose on the report the name, address, occupation, and employer of the person who made a payment or promise of a payment, the amount received and the date of the payment.
- F. A person who receives or is promised a payment that is otherwise reportable under this section is not required to report the payment if the person provides goods or services in the normal course of business and receives or is promised the payment in exchange for providing goods or services.
- G. The provisions of this section do not apply to:
 1. News stories, commentaries or editorials disseminated, broadcast or otherwise published by newspaper, radio station, television station, internet site or any other recognized news medium unless the news medium is owned or controlled by any political party, political committee or candidate;
 2. Communications to members of an organization, except those made by a political party;
 3. Communications paid for by a governmental entity;
 4. Communications that occur during a candidate debate or forum;
 5. Communications made solely to promote a candidate debate or forum made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum, provided that such communications do not otherwise discuss the positions or experience of a candidate;
 6. Communications in which a candidate's name is required by law to appear and the candidate is not singled out in the manner of display;
 7. Spoken communications between two or more individuals in direct conversation unless at least one of the individuals is compensated for the purposes of making the communication; or
 8. Communications that appear on bumper stickers, pins, stickers, badges, ribbons and other similar memorabilia.
- H. Any communication, other than a communication to members of an organization, made at the behest of a candidate, is a contribution to that candidate and is subject to the limits and prohibitions specified in Chapter 12.06 of the San José Municipal Code.
- I. Any electioneering communication that meets the definition of a "sign" as defined in Section 23.02.500 of this Code is subject to the provisions of Title 23.

(Ords. 28624, 28861, 29310, 29642.)

12.06.1020 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 28624, § 13, adopted August 11, 2009, repealed § 12.06.1020, which pertained to disclosure requirements - campaign advertisements.

12.06.1030 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 28624, § 13, adopted August 11, 2009, repealed § 12.06.1030, which pertained to disclosure requirements - recorded telephone messages.