9.08.040 Campaign contributions—Limitations and disclosures.

A. Contributions by Persons to Candidates or Controlled Committees. No Person shall make any Contribution to a Candidate and/or the Candidate’s Controlled Committee, with respect to any single City Election, which will cause the total amount contributed by such Person to the Candidate and the Candidate’s Controlled Committee, when combined, to exceed one thousand dollars in a calendar year.

B. Acceptance or Solicitation by Candidates or Controlled Committees. No Candidate or Controlled Committee, including the Candidate’s campaign treasurer, shall solicit or accept any Contribution from any Person, with respect to any single City Election, which will cause the total amount contributed by such Person to the Candidate and the Candidate’s Controlled Committee, when combined, to exceed one thousand dollars in a calendar year.

C. Contributions by Candidates. The provisions of subsections A and B of this section shall not apply to contributions from a Candidate to his or her Controlled Committee nor to the expenditure, by the Candidate, of his or her personal funds on behalf of his or her candidacy.

D. Contributions to Committees. Contributions made to any Person or a Committee, and not to a Candidate or Controlled Committee, shall not be considered as Contributions to the Candidate or Controlled Committee, notwithstanding the fact that such Person or Committee supports the Candidate or uses the Contribution to bring about the nomination or election of the Candidate.

E. Anonymous Contributions. No Candidate or Controlled Committee, including the Candidate’s campaign treasurer, shall accept anonymous Contributions of one hundred dollars or more. No Person shall make a Contribution or loan for any other Person under an assumed name or under the name of any other Person.

F. Extensions of Credit. Extensions of credit for a period of more than thirty days are prohibited. Extensions of credit of more than one thousand dollars annually are prohibited. Provided, however, a Candidate may personally borrow an unlimited amount and such funds shall be considered a Contribution by the Candidate to himself or herself; provided, further, that such transaction is fully disclosed and documented in accordance with applicable law.

G. Candidate Loan to Campaign. If a Candidate is loaning the campaign money, such loan is required to be reported on Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) campaign filing forms in accordance with the applicable state law.

H. Cash Contributions. No Candidate or Controlled Committee, including the Candidate’s campaign treasurer, shall solicit or accept any cash Contribution from any Person totaling one hundred dollars or more. A cash Contribution shall not be deemed received if it is not negotiated or deposited, and is returned to the contributor before the closing date of the campaign statement on which the Contribution would otherwise be reported. If a cash Contribution, other than a late Contribution, as defined by Section 82036 of the Political Reform Act, is negotiated or deposited, it shall not be deemed received if it is refunded within seventy-two hours of receipt. In the case of a late Contribution, as defined by Section 82036 of the Political Reform Act, it shall not be deemed received if it is returned to the Contributor within forty-eight hours of receipt.

I. Contributions of One Hundred Dollars or More. All Contributions totaling one hundred dollars or more must be made by check, web portal, or electronic application which accepts Payments that are recordable. Contributions totaling one hundred dollars or more made by money order, cashier’s check, or traveler’s cheque are prohibited and must be returned to the contributor.

J. Identification of Contributors. No Contribution shall be deposited into a Candidate or Committee’s City Election campaign account totaling twenty-five dollars or more unless the full name, street address including zip code, are on file with the Candidate or Committee receiving the Contribution. For Contributions totaling one hundred dollars or more, the contributor’s occupation and employer’s name, or if self-employed, the name of the business of the Person making the Contribution, must also be recorded.
K. Family Contributions. Contributions by spouses shall be treated as separate contributions and shall not be aggregated. Contributions by children under eighteen years of age shall be treated as contributions attributed equally to each parent or guardian.

L. Applicability of Section to Candidate and Committees. The terms of this section are applicable to any Contributions made to a Candidate or Committee hereunder, whether used by such Candidate or Committee to finance a current campaign, to pay deficits incurred in prior campaigns or otherwise.

M. Adjustment for Cost of Living. The Campaign Contribution limits and Contribution acceptance and solicitation limits specified in subsections A and B of this section, shall be adjusted in February of each odd numbered year commencing in 2013 for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the previous two-year period. The city clerk shall use the annual percent change in the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the San Diego Metropolitan Area to determine the appropriate rate of increase or decrease. Adjustments made pursuant to this subsection shall be rounded to the nearest five dollars or other comparable cost of living index chosen by the city council. (Ord. 453 § 2, 2019)

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