

ARTICLE VII. - CAMPAIGN REFORM

Sec. 2-907. - Purpose.

The purposes of this article are:

- (1) To eliminate the possibility of corruption or the appearance of corruption in local elections, arising as a result of disproportionately large political contributions, by adopting the least restrictive limits possible on the amounts of money any person may contribute or otherwise cause to be available to candidates for the city council and city treasurer and those who support or oppose such candidates;
- (2) To eliminate the need for candidates and their supporters and opponents to seek large campaign contributions by establishing a realistic voluntary expenditure ceiling for campaigns;
- (3) To promote informed actions by the electors of the city by requiring the full and truthful disclosure of contributions and expenditures in election campaigns;
- (4) To inhibit improper or illegal campaign activity, and to ensure vigorous enforcement of this chapter; and
- (5) Pursuant to California Government Code Section 81013 and Elections Code Section 10202, to impose contribution limitations and other regulations in addition to those imposed by state law, but that do not prevent any person from complying with state law.

(Ord. No. 1560, § 1, 1-3-2005)

Sec. 2-908. - Definitions.

The following terms used in this article shall have the meanings set forth below. Except as otherwise provided here, the terms and provisions of this article shall have the meanings and shall be interpreted in accordance with the applicable definitions and provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended (Government Code § 81000, et seq.) and the regulations of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, as amended.

- (1) *Candidate* means any person who is a candidate for member of the city council whether or not the person is seeking to become a member of the city council or is an incumbent member of the city council seeking reelection.
- (2) *Committee* means any person or combination of persons who directly or indirectly do any of the following in connection with supporting or opposing a candidate or candidates for city council or city treasurer:

- a. Receive contributions totaling \$500.00 or more in a calendar year.
- b. Make independent expenditures totaling \$500.00 or more in a calendar year.
- c. Make contributions totaling \$5,000.00 or more in a calendar year.

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

- (3) *Election* means any general election, special election or recall election.
- (4) *Person* means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, committee, company, corporation, limited liability corporation, association, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.

(Ord. No. 1560, § 1, 1-3-2005; Ord. No. 1663, § 4, 4-3-2017)

Sec. 2-909. - Contribution limitations.

- (a) No person or committee shall make to any candidate, including the controlled committee of such candidate, a contribution in excess of \$500.00 either cash or in-kind, for any single election at which the candidate is attempting to be, or is, on the ballot. Additionally, no candidate or candidate's controlled committee shall solicit or accept any contribution that will cause the amount contributed by the contributor to the candidate or the candidate's controlled committee to exceed \$500.00 for any single election at which the candidate is attempting to be, or is, on the ballot.
- (b) The city council may, by resolution, adjust the contribution limit established in subsection (a) in November of every even numbered year, to reflect any increase or decrease in the California consumer price index since the last such adjustment of the contribution limit. Such adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest \$10.00 amount.
- (c) The limitations of this section shall not apply to contributions of a candidate's personal funds to his or her controlled campaign committee on behalf of his or her own candidacy, and shall apply to contributions from the candidate's spouse.
- (d) Candidates with election accounts must open a new account for the next city election in which they are a candidate, and may contribute up to \$500.00 from the old account into the new account.

(Ord. No. 1560, § 1, 1-3-2005)

Secs. 2-910—2-919. - Reserved.