

Campaign Contributions and Campaign Advertisements*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Monday, August 5, 2019
Members: Packard, Anderson, Raveche

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: Local law prohibits certain campaign contributions to local elected officials and candidates including:

- contributions from corporations; and
- contributions from City contractors, or those seeking to contract with the City, during specified periods before and after a contract's approval.

State and local law require campaign advertisements to disclose specific information about their funding, referred to as "disclaimers." These disclaimers must identify the political committee that paid for the advertisement. Also, the disclaimer on an advertisement paid for by an independent political committee must name the committee's top three contributors of \$10,000 or more.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would prohibit two types of campaign contributions:

- contributions from limited liability companies or limited liability partnerships, to any local officials or candidates, or campaigns they control; and
- contributions from persons with certain financial interests in City land use approval matters, to members of the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the City Attorney, candidates for these offices, and campaigns that they control.

The prohibition relating to land use approvals applies to persons with one of the following types of financial interests:

- a person with an ownership interest of \$5,000,000 or more in a project,
- a director or principal officer of an entity with an ownership interest of \$5,000,000 or more in a project, or
- a developer of a project with an estimated construction cost of \$5,000,000 or more.

This prohibition would start when a request or application regarding a land use matter is pending before certain City boards and commissions, and would end 12 months after the City's decision on the land use matter is final.

Proposition ___ would change the disclaimer requirements for advertisements paid for by independent political committees. These disclaimers would be required to name the committee's top three contributors who donated at least \$5,000 and the amount they contributed. And if any of those contributors is another independent political committee, the advertisement would also be required to name that other committee's top two contributors who donated at least \$5,000 and the amount they contributed.

Proposition ___ would also increase the size of written disclaimers, and specify that disclaimers should appear at the beginning of audio and video advertisements instead of the end.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to impose new limits on campaign contributions to local elected officials and candidates, and additional disclaimer requirements on campaign advertisements.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want the City to make these changes.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*