

Ballot Simplification Committee

FINAL Approved Digest – 10:40 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2011 – Packard, Fraps, Fasick, Jorgensen, Unruh

Campaign Consultant Disclosures *(working title only, subject to change)*

Any Requests for Reconsideration were due Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at 11:05 a.m.

The Way It Is Now:

Under the City's campaign consultant ordinance, campaign consultants working on local campaigns must register with the City's Ethics Commission (Commission) and file periodic reports.

Campaign consultants must register with the Commission if they earn at least \$1,000 in a calendar year for campaign consulting services. Registered campaign consultants must file quarterly reports with the Commission that disclose their clients, compensation, campaign contributions, gifts they have provided to City officials, City contracts, and whether they have been appointed to any public office. They must submit reports as paper copies, but the Commission also may require electronic copies. They also must pay annual fees to the City based on their compensation and number of clients.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) cannot amend the City's campaign consultant ordinance without the voters' approval.

The Proposal:

Proposition ___ would change the registration, filing, and fee requirements of the campaign consultant ordinance to:

- redefine a "campaign consultant" to mean any individual who earns at least \$5,000 for campaign consulting services within a 12-month period;
- require that campaign consultants file reports monthly instead of quarterly;
- authorize the Commission to require electronic filing of all required information instead of paper reports; and
- amend the fees payable to the City so they no longer depend on the number of clients.

Proposition ___ also would allow the City to change any of the campaign consultant ordinance's requirements without further voter approval. The Commission would be required to approve the changes by a four-fifths vote, and the Board would be required to approve them by a two-thirds vote. The changes also would need to further the purposes of the ordinance. Voters would retain the right to amend the ordinance.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to redefine "campaign consultant," require campaign consultants to file monthly reports, authorize the Commission to require electronic filing instead of paper reports, and change the calculation of City fees campaign consultants must pay. You also want to allow the City to change any of the campaign consultant ordinance's requirements without further voter approval.

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

Word count: 350 [suggested word limit: 300]