

Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Monday, August 1, 2011
Campaign Consultant Disclosures *(working title only, subject to change)*

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 may also require electronic copies. They must also 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 on a monthly, instead of quarterly, basis;
- authorize the Commission to require electronic filing of all required information instead of paper copy reports; and
- amend the fees payable to the City so they no longer depend on the number of clients.

Proposition ____ would also allow the City to change these 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 would also need to further the purposes of the ordinance.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to redefine "campaign consultant," require campaign consultants to file reports on a monthly basis, authorize the Commission to require electronic filing instead of paper copy reports, and change the calculation of City fees imposed on campaign consultants.

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

word count: 328 [suggested word limit: 300]