

Campaign Consultant Disclosures - Request for Reconsideration

This is a formal appeal regarding the Ballot Simplification Committee text for the

The legal text specifically authorizes the amendment of this entire chapter, not just the portions dealing with deadlines for reporting.

Sec. 1.505 -- Amendment of Repeal of Chapter states "The voters may amend or repeal this Chapter. The Board of Supervisors may amend this Chapter if all of the following conditions are met:

a) the amendment furthers the purposes of this Chapter; b) The Ethics Commission approves the proposed amendment in advance by at least a four-fifths vote of all its members; c) the proposed amendment is available for public review at least 30 days before the amendment is considered by the Board of Supervisors or any committee of the Board of Supervisors and d) the Board of Supervisors approves the amendment by at least two-thirds vote of all its members."

The approved Ballot Simplification Text does not reflect the actual proposal. Instead it states a more limited grant of authority to the Ethics Commission and Board of Supervisors to amend the chapter only with regard to the deadlines for filing, and fails to note that the authority is to amend any and all parts of the Political Campaign Consultant law.

"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 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 also would need to

further the purposes of the ordinance. Voters would retain the right to amend the ordinance."

Note that the language of the Ballot Simplification Committee states "would allow the City to change these requirements without further voter approval. "These" refers only and specifically to the filing, and would not be understood by voters to mean that the Ethics Commission and Board of Supervisors could amend the chapter to change the definition of political consultants, change the requirements for what must be disclosed, change penalties for failing to comply with the law, or any other aspect of this law.

This is an absolute and not a limited grant of authority to amend the political consultant law.

I am formally requesting that the Ballot Simplification Committee amend its language to reflect the actual authority granted is to amend any and all provisions of the political consultant law.

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