

Expenditure Lobbyists*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration

On: Friday, July 31, 2015

Members: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh

Word count: (suggested 300-word limit)

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City's Lobbyist Ordinance regulates individual lobbyists who directly contact City officers. The Lobbyist Ordinance does not address indirect lobbying, also known as "expenditure lobbying," where persons solicit or urge others to directly contact City officers.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would define an expenditure lobbyist as any person who pays \$2,500 or more in a calendar month to solicit, request, or urge others to directly lobby City officers.

The following types of payments would not count towards the \$2,500 threshold:

- payments made to a registered lobbyist who directly contacts City officers;
- payments made to an organization for membership dues;
- payments made by an organization to distribute communications to its members;
- payments made by a news media organization to develop and distribute its publications; and
- payments made by a client to a representative to appear on the client's behalf in a proceeding before a City agency or department.

Proposition ___ would require expenditure lobbyists to register with the Ethics Commission, pay a \$500 registration fee, and file monthly disclosures regarding their lobbying activities.

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 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 the City to regulate expenditure lobbyists by requiring them to register with the Ethics Commission, pay a \$500 registration fee, and file monthly disclosures regarding their lobbying activities.

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

**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.*