



## FACT SHEET ON DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMITTEES WITH \$10,000 DONORS

The City's Election Campaign Control Ordinance [ECCO] includes a variety of regulations applicable to committees participating in City elections. This fact sheet is designed to offer guidance to primarily formed recipient committees that have accepted contributions of \$10,000 or more from one or more donors. This fact sheet should not be considered a substitute for the actual language contained within San Diego Municipal Code sections 27.2901 through 27.2991.

- ❖ Under state law, primarily formed committees must identify on their advertisements the names of the top two donors of \$50,000 or more.
- ❖ The City of San Diego has a lower monetary threshold than the state. When a City of San Diego primarily formed recipient committee places a campaign advertisement supporting or opposing a City candidate or ballot measure, that advertisement must include the names of the top two donors of \$10,000 or more.

### **Committees Subject to \$10,000 Donor Rule**

- ❖ The City's \$10,000 donor rules apply to the following types of committees:
  - ✓ Committees primarily formed to support or oppose one or more City candidates appearing on the same ballot
  - ✓ Committees primarily formed to support or oppose one or more City ballot measures appearing on the same ballot
- ❖ These rules do not apply to general purpose recipient committees.
- ❖ These committees must identify the names of their top two donors on their campaign advertisements (e.g., mailings, door hangers, yard signs, billboards), as explained below.

### **Advertising Disclosures**

- ❖ If the committee has more than two donors of \$10,000 or more, it is only required to disclose the highest and second highest in that order.
- ❖ If the committee has two or more disclosable donors that contributed identical amounts, the order of disclosure shall be made beginning with the most recent contributor of that amount.
- ❖ For most advertisements, the disclosure must be in a bold sans serif typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 14 points in size. If the advertisement is on a yard sign, poster, placard, billboard, or large form of advertising (30 square feet or larger), the disclosure's typeface must have a height no less than five percent of the height of the advertisement. For telephone communications, the disclosure must be clearly audible and at the same volume as the rest of the call.

- ❖ If a disclosable contributor is a recipient committee, the word “committee” must be included. For example, if the contributor was the Coolidge Club, a general purpose committee, the advertisement disclosure could include the following: “with support from the Coolidge Club committee.”
- ❖ The disclosure must reflect information that is accurate as of the date the committee places the order to purchase the advertisement.

### **Examples**

- ❖ A committee primarily formed to support Nancy Nolan for Council District 4 received contributions of \$15,000 from Sunset Bank and \$30,000 from Henry Monroe, the CEO of a local biotech company. When the committee sends out mailers supporting Nolan, the mailer’s “paid for by” disclosure will include the name and address of the committee followed by the words: “with major funding by Henry Monroe and Sunset Bank.”
- ❖ A committee is created to support Proposition A, which would amend some of the City’s land development laws. The committee received contributions of \$45,000 from O’Toole Builders, \$12,000 from the Residential Builders Association, and \$75,000 from Citywide Mortgages. It pays for a billboard to support the ballot measure. The “paid for by” disclosure on the billboard will include the name of the committee followed by the words: “with major funding by Citywide Mortgages and O’Toole Builders.”

For additional information, please contact the Ethics Commission at (619) 533-3476.

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