

SAN DIEGO ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE CITY'S
Election Campaign Control Ordinance

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

May 24, 2016

Chapter 2: Government
Article 7: Elections, Campaign Finance and Lobbying
Division 29: Election Campaign Control Ordinance

§27.2916 Campaign Contribution Checking Account

- (a) Every *controlled committee* that accepts *contributions* and every *primarily formed recipient committee* shall establish one campaign checking account at a bank or other financial institution with an office or branch in the state of California.
- (b) Upon opening of an account, the name of the bank or other financial institution and account number thereof shall be filed with the *City Clerk* on the same forms and in the time and manner required by California Government Code sections 81000 *et seq.*
- (c) All *contributions* of money or checks, or anything of value converted by such *committee* to money or a check, shall be placed in the *committee's* checking account ~~within forty calendar days, except that no contribution shall be deposited to a campaign contribution checking account without the receipt by the committee of all information required by title 2, section 18401 of the California Code of Regulations.~~
- (d) The committee shall return a contribution to the donor if the committee is not in possession of all donor information required by title 2, section 18401 of the California Code of Regulations by the earlier of:
 - (1) the 60th calendar day following committee's receipt of the contribution;
or,
 - (2) the filing of the campaign statement or contribution report covering the reporting period in which the contribution was received.

Key change:
follow state's
60 day rule,
but mandate
that info be
obtained
before filing
next campaign
statement.

If the *contribution* is not returned to the donor within the applicable timeframe identified above, the amount of the *contribution* shall be paid from campaign funds and delivered to the *City Clerk* within that timeframe. If a donor fails to cash a returned check within 90 calendar days of the check being sent, the amount of the *contribution* shall be paid from campaign funds and delivered to the *City Clerk* within an additional 30 calendar days. Payments delivered to the

City Clerk shall be made payable to the City Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund of the City.

§27.2930 Base Level of Campaign Statements and Disclosures

Each *candidate* and *committee* shall file campaign statements in the time and manner required by California Government Code sections 81000 *et seq.* and title 2 of the California Code of Regulations with the following additional requirements:

- Key change:**
eliminate
requirement to
alphabetize
contributors
- Key change:**
eliminate 3rd
pre-election
report for
primarily
formed
committees
- (a) ~~All *candidate* and *committee* campaign disclosure statements that are generated from the output of a computer software program shall be generated with the names of all contributors listed in alphabetical order by last name. Treasurers for any *committee* that files handwritten campaign disclosure statements shall make reasonable good faith efforts to list the names of all contributors in alphabetical order by last name.~~
 - (b)(a) Every *candidate*, ~~and controlled committee for elective City office, and primarily formed recipient committee~~ that has pre-election filing obligations with the *City Clerk* pursuant to California Government Code section 84200.5 shall, on the Friday before the *election*, disclose on a Fair Political Practices Commission Form 497 filed with the *City Clerk* all previously undisclosed *contributions* of \$100 or more received after the closing date of its most recent Fair Political Practices Commission Form 460.
 - (1) The Form 497 shall have a closing date of the Wednesday before the *election* and shall cover all *contributions* received through that day.
 - (2) The Form 497, if not filed electronically in accordance with section 27.2931, shall be filed using a shipping service with delivery guaranteed by the Monday before the *election*, or by personal delivery.
 - (c)(b) When reporting *contributions* for regularly scheduled *City candidate elections*, *candidates* and *committees* shall include the notation "(P)" for all *contributions* that the contributor has designated for a primary *election*, and shall include the notation "(G)" for all *contributions* that the contributor has designated for a general *election*. In instances where the contributor has not designated his or her *contribution* for a particular *election*, the *candidate* or *committee* shall include the notation "(P)" for all *contributions* the *candidate* or *committee* has allocated for the primary *election*, and shall include the notation "(G)" for all *contributions* the *candidate* or *committee* has allocated for the general *election*.
 - (d)(c) When reporting *contributions* for specially scheduled *City candidate elections*, *candidates* and *committees* shall include the notation "(S)" for all *contributions* that the contributor has designated for a *special election*, and shall include the notation "(R)" for all *contributions* that the contributor has designated for a *special run-off election*. In instances where the contributor has not designated his or her *contribution* for a particular *election*, the *candidate* or *committee* shall include the notation "(S)" for all *contributions* the *candidate* or *committee* has allocated for the *special election*, and shall include the notation "(R)" for all

contributions the candidate or committee has allocated for the special run-off election.

- (e)(d) In conjunction with making the notations required by subsections (e)(b) and (d)(c), candidates and committees shall disclose the cumulative amount of contributions received from the contributor for each election.
- (f)(e) Sponsors and sponsored committees participating in City elections are subject to the reporting obligations set forth in title 2, section 18419 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (g)(f) Every City primarily formed recipient committee formed to support or oppose the qualification of an initiative or referendum measure prior to the commencement of the petition drive shall, within 10 calendar days of the commencement of the petition drive, file a Fair Political Practices Commission Form 497 with the City Clerk disclosing all contributions of \$100 or more received after the closing date of its most recent Fair Political Practices Commission Form 460, or if the primarily formed recipient committee has not previously filed a Form 460, the Form 497 shall instead disclose all contributions of \$100 or more received since January 1 of that year.
- (1) For purposes of subsections (g)(f) and (h)(g), a petition drive commences when the proponent of an initiative or referendum measure begins circulating a petition for signatures.
- (2) The Form 497 shall have a closing date of the day immediately preceding the commencement of the petition drive.
- (3) The Form 497, if not filed electronically in accordance with section 27.2931, shall be filed using a shipping service with delivery guaranteed no later than 12 calendar days after the commencement of the petition circulation.
- (h)(g) For the period of time that begins with the commencement of a petition drive to qualify an initiative or referendum measure and concludes with the day that the petition is submitted to the City Clerk:
- (1) every City primarily formed recipient committee formed to support or oppose the qualification of the measure shall file with the City Clerk, within 24 hours of receiving a monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more or within 48 hours of receiving a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more, a Fair Political Practices Commission Form 497 disclosing the receipt of that contribution.
- (2) every City committee that is not formed to support or oppose the qualification of the measure shall file with the City Clerk, within 24 hours of making an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more supporting or opposing the qualification of the measure, a Fair Political Practices Commission Form 496 disclosing the making of the independent

Housekeeping change: follow state model for non-monetary contributions

expenditure and the *committee's* receipt of *contributions* of \$100 or more received after the closing date of the *committee's* last campaign statement.

- (3) The Forms 496 and 497, if not filed electronically in accordance with section 27.2931, shall be filed using personal delivery, facsimile transmission, or guaranteed overnight delivery. For purposes of this subsection, the filing deadline is not extended for weekends or holidays.

(i)(h) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the disclosure requirements of California Government Code sections 81000 *et seq.*, the disclosure requirements of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and the additional requirements of this section.

§27.2938 Restrictions on Time Period of Contributions

Key change:
extend pre-election fundraising period to January 1

- (a) It is unlawful for any *candidate* or *controlled committee* seeking *elective City office* to solicit or accept *contributions* prior to the twelve months January 1 of the odd-numbered year immediately preceding the primary *election* for the office sought.
- (b) It is unlawful for any *candidate* or *controlled committee* seeking *elective City Office* to solicit or accept, after the date of an *election*, a *contribution* that exceeds the net debts outstanding from the *election*.
- (1) As used in this subsection, the term “*election*” means the *election* for which the *candidate* incurred bills and debts and is raising *contributions* to pay net debts outstanding.
- (2) As used in this subsection, the term “net debts outstanding” has the same meaning as that set forth in title 2, section 18531.61 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (3) *Contributions* received after the date of an *election* shall reduce the total amount of net debts outstanding.
- (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), it is unlawful for any *candidate* or *controlled committee* seeking *elective City office* to solicit or accept a *contribution* more than 180 days after the date of an election.
- (d) The restrictions set forth in this section do not apply to:
- (1) *contributions* made by a *candidate* to his or her *controlled committee*; or,
- (2) *contributions* made to a *professional expense committee*, as discussed in sections 27.2965-27.2969.
- (e) The restrictions on accepting *contributions* imposed by subsection (a) do not apply to *contributions* for recall special *elections*.

§27.2939 Pre-Primary Contributions for General Election

- (a) A *candidate* for *elective City office* may raise contributions for a general election prior to a primary election for the same *elective City office* if the *candidate* sets aside these *contributions* and uses them only for the general election.
- (b) If the *candidate* wins outright in the primary election, is defeated in the primary election, or otherwise withdraws from the general election, the *contributions* raised for the general election shall be refunded to the *contributors* on a pro rata basis less any expenses associated with the raising and administration of general election *contributions*. *Candidates* who are obligated to refund *contributions* raised for the general election shall be subject to the same provisions applicable to candidates for elective state office under title 2, section 18531.2 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (c) For purposes of this section, a “primary election” includes a *district primary election*, a *citywide primary election*, and a *special election*, and a “general election” includes a *district general election*, a *citywide general election*, and a *special run-off election*.
- (d) The particular *election* for which *contributions* are received shall be reported in accordance with section 27.2930(e)(b) and (d)(c).

Housekeeping change: reflect changes to section 27.2930

Key change: eliminate notification requirement

§27.2945 Notification Regarding Reimbursement Prohibition

- (a) ~~It is unlawful for any *candidate* or *controlled committee* to solicit *contributions* for a *City candidate election* from potential contributors by distributing printed materials or using an Internet website unless such materials or site contain at least one instance of the following statement in a prominent place printed in typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is not smaller than the typeface used in a majority of the text in the materials or on the site: “It is unlawful to reimburse an individual’s contribution to a *City candidate* unless the reimbursement is made by another individual and the names of both individuals are provided to the *candidate*. ”~~
- (b) ~~Upon the discovery by the *candidate* or *controlled committee* that a violation of subsection (a) has occurred, such violation may be remedied by the *candidate* or *controlled committee* submitting written notice reciting the statement required by subsection (a) to all individuals who were sent the materials constituting the violation and to all individuals who made a *contribution* through the web site during the period of violation, and thereafter reporting in writing the nature of the violation and remedial action to the *Enforcement Authority*, provided that the remedial action takes place before the date of the *election* for which the solicitation was made, and no later than fourteen calendar days after the discovery of the violation.~~

§27.2960 Extensions of Vendor Credit

- (a) *Vendors may extend credit to candidates and their controlled committees in the ordinary course of business in the same manner they extend it to persons for other than political purposes.*
- (b) A *candidate or controlled committee for elective City office* that accepts goods or services for *political purposes* on credit under subsection (a), shall pay for those goods or services in full no later than 180 calendar days after ~~receipt of a bill or invoice and in no event later than 180 calendar days after the last calendar day of the month in which the goods were delivered or the services were rendered, unless it is clear from the circumstances that the failure to pay is reasonably based on a good faith dispute. For purposes of this subsection, a good faith dispute shall be presumed if the candidate or controlled committee produces the following: the date of the election for which the good or services were provided.~~
- Key change:**
extend vendor credit period to 180 days after election
- (1) ~~evidence that the candidate or controlled committee protested the payment of a bill no later than 30 calendar days after the last calendar day of the month in which the goods were delivered or the services were rendered; and~~
- (2) ~~evidence that the protest was based on the quality or quantity of goods delivered or services rendered.~~
- (c) The provisions of subsection (b) do not apply to debt owed to a financial institution for an outstanding credit card balance.

§27.2970 Mass Campaign Literature

- (a) It is unlawful for any *candidate or committee* to pay for *mass campaign literature* for the purpose of supporting or opposing a *City candidate* or ballot *measure* unless each item of *mass campaign literature* includes the words “paid for by” immediately followed by the name, street address, and city of that *candidate or committee*.
- (b) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (a) it is unlawful for any *candidate or committee* to send *mass campaign literature* through the mail for the purpose of supporting or opposing a *City candidate* or *City measure* unless the name, street address, and city of the *candidate or committee* are shown on the outside of each item of *mass campaign literature*, and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail.
- (1) ~~If the sender of the mass campaign literature is a single candidate or committee, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee need only be shown on the outside of each item being mailed.~~
- (2) ~~If more than one committee pays to mail the mass campaign literature, only the name, address, and city of the committee paying the largest portion of the costs of designing, printing, and mailing the mailer need be~~

~~shown on the outside of the mailer, and the names of all of the *committees* paying for the mailer shall be shown on at least one of the inserts included within the mailer.~~

- (b) For *mass campaign literature* sent through the mail, the disclosure required by subsection (a) shall appear on the outside of each item of *mass campaign literature*.

(1) If more than one *candidate* or *committee* is paying for the mailing, the *candidate* or *committee* paying the largest portion of the costs relating to the designing, printing, and posting of the mailing shall be identified on the outside of each mailing in the disclosure required by subsection (a).

(2) If two or more *candidates* or *committees* are paying equally for the mailing, at least one of the *candidates* or *committees* shall be identified on the outside of each mailing in the disclosure required by subsection (a), and all of the *candidates* and *committees* paying for the mailing shall be identified on an insert included within each mailing in the disclosure required by subsection (a).

- (c) For *candidates* and *candidate-controlled committees* supporting the *candidate's* candidacy, the disclosures required by subsections (a) and (b),~~other than for yard signs~~, shall be in a typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 12 points in size. For all other *committees*, the disclosures required by subsections (a) and (b),~~other than for yard signs~~, shall be in a bold, sans serif typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 14 points in size. These disclosure requirements do not apply to signs that are subject to the provisions of subsection (d).

- (d) It is unlawful for any *candidate* or *committee* to pay for *mass campaign literature* in the form of ~~yard signs~~ that are publicly displayed for the purpose of supporting or opposing a *City candidate* or *ballot measure* unless the face of each ~~yard sign~~ sign includes the words "paid for by" immediately followed by the name, street address, and city of that *candidate* or *committee* in a typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and has a height no less than five percent of the height of the ~~yard sign~~. This disclosure requirement applies to yard signs, posters, placards, and similar forms of advertising that are intended to be viewed in passing by members of the public rather than individually distributed to such members.

- (e) For purposes of this section, an organization's post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if that organization's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

- (f) ~~If a *controlled committee* pays for *mass campaign literature*, the name of the *candidate* controlling the *committee* shall be included in addition to the information required by this section.~~

Housekeeping change:
increase consistency with state law

Housekeeping change:
increase consistency with state law

Housekeeping change: eliminate redundant language

(g)(f) The requirements set forth in this section do not apply to *member communications* distributed by an organization that is not a political party, email communications, Internet web pages, or slate mailers.

§27.2974 Disclosure on Advertisements in Mass Media

- (a) It is unlawful for any *candidate* or *committee* to pay for advertising in a regularly published newspaper, periodical, or magazine of general circulation, ~~or on any Internet web page~~, for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more City *measures* or *candidates* for *elective City office* unless the advertisement includes the words “paid for by” followed by the name of that *candidate* or *committee*.
- (b) (1) For *candidates* and *candidate-controlled committees* paying for advertising supporting the *candidate’s* candidacy, the disclosure statement required by this subsection (a) shall be in a typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 12 points in size.
(2) For all other *committees*, the disclosure statement required by subsection (a) shall be in a bold, sans serif typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 14 points in size.

- (b) It is unlawful for any candidate or committee to pay for text or graphic advertising on an Internet web page for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more City measures or candidates for elective City office unless the advertisement includes the words “paid for by” followed by the name of that candidate or committee in letters at least as large as the majority of the text in the advertisement.

(1) In the event that it is impractical to comply with the provisions of this subsection because of the limited size of the advertisement, the disclosure may be displayed via rollover display, a link to a webpage with the disclosure information, or any other technological means that readily provide the user with the disclosure information.

(2) The disclosure information required by this subsection must be legible, contrast with the background, and be visible for a period of at least four seconds.

(c) It is unlawful for any candidate or committee to pay for video advertising on an Internet web page for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more City measures or candidates for elective City office unless the advertisement includes the words “paid for by” followed by the name of that candidate or committee in a contrasting typeface of sufficient size to be readily legible to an average viewer for not less than four seconds. This disclosure must also be spoken at the beginning or end of the video unless the written disclosure is shown for at least five seconds on a video lasting less than one minute or at least ten seconds on a video lasting one minute or more.

Housekeeping change:
increase consistency with state law

§27.2975 Major Funding of Advertisements Supporting or Opposing Candidates and Ballot Measures

- (a) In addition to all other applicable disclosure requirements set forth in this Division, it is unlawful for any *primarily formed recipient committee* to pay for an advertisement supporting or opposing a *City candidate* or ballot *measure* unless each *person* who has cumulatively contributed \$10,000 or more to the *committee* is identified in the advertisement as providing major funding to the *committee*.
- (1) If there are more than two donors of \$10,000 or more, the *committee* is only required to disclose the highest and second highest in that order.
- (2) In the event that two or more donors of identical amounts meet the threshold for the top two contributors, the order of disclosure shall be made beginning with the most recent contributor of that amount.
- (3) The disclosure shall be in a bold, sans serif typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 14 points in size, except that if the advertisement is ~~on a yard sign~~ subject to the disclosure requirements of section 27.2970(d), a billboard, or any other large form of advertising, as defined in section 27.2972, the disclosure's typeface shall have a height no less than five percent of the height of the advertisement.
- (4) The disclosure shall reflect information that is accurate as of the date the *committee* places the order to purchase the advertisement.
- (b) through (c) [No change in text.]

**Housekeeping
change:**
increase
consistency
with state law