



UPDATE REGARDING SAN DIEGO'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

This bulletin supplements the Ethics Commission's May 24, 2010, bulletin concerning political party committees and the changes to San Diego's campaign finance laws resulting from the *Thalheimer v. City of San Diego* lawsuit.

Contributions from Political Party Committees

- ❖ As of June 17, 2010, political party committees will be subject to a \$1,000 limit on contributions to City candidates.
- ❖ As of that date, no political party committee may make a contribution to a City candidate that would cause the total amount it contributed to that candidate to exceed \$1,000 per election.
- ❖ Any contributions made by a political party committee to a City candidate prior to June 17, 2010, will be aggregated with contributions made after this date for purposes of the \$1,000 per election limit.

Independent Expenditures by Political Party Committees

- ❖ At this time, the Ethics Commission will not be applying the restrictions of San Diego Municipal Code section 27.2936 to independent expenditures made by political party committees.
- ❖ In other words, all political party committees, including any political party committee that has made a contribution to a City candidate, may make independent expenditures supporting or opposing City candidates without regard to the source or amount of contributions used to fund such campaign advocacy.
- ❖ Note that the Ethics Commission may revisit the application of San Diego Municipal Code section 27.2936 to political party committees should a future court ruling modify the \$1,000 limit on political party contributions to City candidates or otherwise impact the integrity of the City's limit on contributions made directly to candidates.

The *Thalheimer* litigation is still pending and may result in additional changes to San Diego's campaign finance laws. Please contact the Ethics Commission at ethicscommission@sandiego.gov or 619-533-3476 if you have questions regarding this matter.