



## BULLETIN REGARDING MAYORAL SPECIAL ELECTION

On Friday, August 23, 2013, Mayor Filner submitted his resignation, effective on August 30, 2013. Because his resignation comes in the midst of an effort to recall him from office, it raises some questions for candidates and committees active in the recall process. This bulletin is designed to provide general guidance concerning the application of the City's campaign laws as the City transitions from a recall election to a special election to fill a vacancy.

- ❖ Prior to Mayor Filner submitting his resignation, it was presumed that there would be a recall election notwithstanding the possibility that the recall proponents might be unable to obtain the necessary number of signatures.
- ❖ Because of Mayor Filner's resignation, the scheduling of a recall election may no longer be presumed. Instead, pursuant to the City Charter and Municipal Code, the City Council will be calling a special election to fill the vacancy created by the Mayor's resignation.
- ❖ Because there is no longer a presumption of a recall election, individuals interested in seeking the office of mayor must do so within the scope of the upcoming special election, as follows:
  - ✓ Candidates must file a Form 501 for the special election to fill the mayoral vacancy prior to soliciting or accepting contributions for the special election. Any candidates who will be accepting \$1,000 or more in contributions must also file a Form 410 with the Secretary of State and City Clerk.
  - ✓ Contributions for the special election may be accepted before the effective date of Mayor Filner's resignation, and before an actual date for the special election is set by the City Council.
  - ✓ Candidates in the mayoral special election may accept contributions from individuals subject to a \$1,000 contribution limit, and may also accept contributions from political parties up to \$20,000. Contributions from corporations, partnerships, organizations, and other types of non-individuals are not permitted.
  - ✓ Candidates in the special election may accept contributions for a special runoff election subject the limits described above; however, such contributions may not be used to pay expenditures associated with the special election and must be returned to contributors in the event the candidate wins outright in the special election, is defeated in the special election, or otherwise withdraws from the special runoff election.