

CITY OF SAN DIEGO CAMPAIGN LAWS

This chart summarizes the laws that apply to City of San Diego candidates and committees over and above those imposed by the State of California

Type of Law	San Diego Law	Rationale	Similar laws in other local jurisdictions?
Contribution limits	Contributions to candidates limited to \$550 (district) and \$1,050 (citywide) per election	Prevents corruption and appearance of corruption; state law imposes limits only for state (not local) candidates	yes
Contributions from non-individuals (other than political parties)	Contributions to candidates from non-individuals is not permitted	Prevents corruption and the appearance of corruption by reducing opportunities to circumvent the individual contribution limit	yes
Contributions from political parties	Contributions to candidates limited to \$10,300 (district) and \$20,650 (citywide) per election	Prevents corruption and the appearance of corruption by reducing opportunities to circumvent the individual contribution limit	yes
Deposit of contributions	Contributions may not be deposited until contributor information (name, street address, occupation, employer) is received	Ensures that committees have information before depositing contributions and that contributor information is promptly disclosed on campaign statements	yes
Reporting contributions per election	Candidates must code contributions "P" or "G" on campaign statements, along with cumulative amount contributed per election	Clarifies which election (primary or general) a contribution is for and demonstrates compliance with contribution limits; state law require only for state (not local) candidates	yes
Alphabetizing contributors	Contributors must be listed in alphabetical order on campaign statements	Enables public to more easily locate specific contributors	no
Additional pre-election filing	Third pre-election filing is due on the Friday before the election, covering period through Wednesday	Ensures that the public has information regarding contributions received during the days leading up to the election	yes
Fundraising time limits	Candidate fundraising limited to 12 months before primary and 180 days after election	Reduces the amount of time candidates may accept money from people potentially seeking to influence City decisionmaking	yes

Type of Law	San Diego Law	Rationale	Similar laws in other local jurisdictions?
Vendor debt rules	Candidates must pay debts within 180 days	Prevents corruption and the appearance of corruption by reducing opportunities to circumvent contribution limits (unpaid debts are contributions)	yes
Loan limits	Candidates may not have outstanding loans of more than \$100,000 at any one time	Reduces the amount of money that successful candidates may receive from potential special interests to repay themselves	no
Notice regarding reimbursement	Printed materials and campaign websites that include solicitations for contributions must include warning notice re: reimbursement (i.e., money laundering)	Ensures that all parties are aware of the prohibition concerning money laundering, one of the most serious campaign violations	no
“Paid for by” disclosures	Disclosures required on campaign literature, phone banks, large signs, mass media ads are slightly different than state law (12 point type or 5% of sign height)	Similar to state law, but requires disclosures to be more visible, e.g., requiring a disclosure to be in 12 point font instead of 6 point font	yes
Vendor credit rules	Independent committees formed to support or oppose City candidates may not use vendor credit if it would result in less disclosure on campaign advertisements	Closes loophole that would otherwise allow committees to avoid identifying their sponsors and major contributors on campaign advertisements	no
Duplicating candidate materials	Independent committees may not duplicate campaign materials prepared by candidates	Closes loophole that would otherwise allow “independent” committees to circumvent contribution limits by paying to disseminate candidates’ campaign materials	yes
Identifying major donors on campaign advertisements	Top two donors of \$10,000 or more must be disclosed	Ensures that the public has information concerning significant sources of funding for campaign ads (state’s \$50,000 threshold enables \$49,000 donors to avoid disclosure)	yes