

Campaign Contributions and Campaign Advertisements*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest

On: Monday, August 5, 2019

Members: Packard, Anderson, Raveche

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6

The Way It Is Now: Local law restricts certain campaign contributions to local elected officials and candidates including:

- Contributions from corporations; and
- Contributions from City contractors, or those seeking to contract with the City, during certain periods.

State and local law require campaign advertisements to disclose specific information about their funding, referred to as “disclaimers.” These disclaimers must identify the political committee that paid for the advertisement. Also, the disclaimer on an advertisement paid for by an independent political committee must name the committee’s top three contributors of \$10,000 or more.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would restrict two types of campaign contributions:

- Contributions to any local elected official or candidate from limited liability companies or limited liability partnerships; and
- Contributions to members of the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the City Attorney, candidates for these offices and campaigns that they control, from persons with certain financial interests in City land-use approval matters.

Contributions relating to land-use approvals are restricted for persons with one of the following types of financial interests:

- A person with an ownership interest of \$5 million or more in a project;
- A director or principal officer of an entity with an ownership interest of \$5 million or more in a project; or
- A developer of a project with an estimated construction cost of \$5 million or more.

This restriction would start when a request or application regarding a land-use matter is pending before certain City boards and commissions, and would end 12 months after the City’s final decision.

Proposition ___ would also change the disclaimer requirements for advertisements paid for by independent political committees:

- These disclaimers would be required to name the committee’s top three contributors who donated at least \$5,000 and the amount each contributed.
- If any of those contributors is another independent political committee, the advertisement would be required to name that other committee’s top two contributors who donated at least \$5,000 and the amount each contributed.

Proposition ___ would increase the size of written disclaimers and require disclaimers to appear at the beginning of audio and video advertisements.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote “yes,” you want to establish new restrictions on campaign contributions to local elected officials and candidates, and apply new disclaimer requirements to campaign advertisements.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.