

Chapter 3.12 - THE CITY OF OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT

*Footnotes:**--- (1) ---*

Editor's note— Ord. No. 13399, § 1, adopted November 29, 2016, amended Chapter 3.12 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Formerly, Chapter 3.12, Article I—IX, pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Ord. No. 12158, adopted in 1999; Ord. No. 12197, adopted in 1999; Ord. No. 12207, § 2, adopted in 2000; Ord. No. 12260, § 1, adopted in 2000; Ord. No. 12998, § 1, adopted March 2, 2010; Ord. No. 13156, §§ 3—5, adopted March 19, 2013, and Ord. No. 13262, § 1, adopted October 21, 2014.

Article I. - Findings and Purpose

3.12.010 - Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the City of Oakland Campaign Reform Act, hereinafter "the Act."

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.020 - Findings and declarations.

The Oakland City Council finds and declares each of the following:

- A. Monetary contributions to political campaigns are a legitimate form of participation in our political process, but the financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not enable them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.
- B. The rapidly increasing costs of political campaigns have forced many candidates to raise larger and larger percentages of money from interest groups with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by City government. This has caused the public perception that votes are being improperly influenced by monetary contributions. This perception is undermining the credibility and integrity of the governmental process.
- C. Candidates are raising less money in small contributions and more money in large individual and organizational contributions. This has created the public impression that the small contributor has an insignificant role to play in political campaigns.
- D. High campaign costs are forcing elected City Officials to spend more time on fundraising and less time on the public's business. The constant pressure to raise contributions is distracting elected City Officials from urgent governmental matters.
- E. Elected City Officials are responding to high campaign costs by raising larger amounts of money. This fundraising distracts them from important public matters, encourages contributions, which may have a corrupting influence, and gives incumbents an overwhelming and patently unfair fundraising advantage over potential challengers.
- F. Disclosure of donors who have financial interests with the City of Oakland and also of City Officials who solicit contributions safeguards against potential conflicts of interest.
- G. For transparency, and to protect our democracy, including from the risk of secretive big money, it is important that the public have a right to know who is paying for, and who is sending, advocacy and campaign communications.
- H. The integrity of the governmental process, the competitiveness of campaigns and public confidence in local officials are all diminishing.
- I. This Act shall be liberally construed and vigorously enforced to ensure its purposes are fulfilled.

(Ord. of 13545, 6-18-2019; Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.030 - Purpose of this Act.

The purpose of this Act is to accomplish the following:

- A. To ensure that all individuals and interest groups in our City have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in elective and governmental processes.
- B. To reduce the influence of large contributors with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by the City, and to counter the perception that decisions are influenced more by the size of contributions than by the best interests of the people of Oakland.
- C. To limit overall expenditures in campaigns, thereby reducing the pressure on candidates to raise large campaign war chests for defensive purposes, beyond the amount necessary to communicate reasonably with voters.
- D. To reduce the advantage of incumbents and thus encourage competition for elective office.
- E. To allow candidates and elected City Officials to spend a smaller proportion of their time on fundraising and a greater proportion of their time dealing with issues of importance to their constituents and the community.
- F. To ensure that serious candidates are able to raise enough money to communicate their views and positions adequately to the public, thereby promoting public discussion of the important issues involved in political campaigns.
- G. To help restore public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article II. - Definitions

3.12.040 - Interpretation of this Act.

Unless the term is specifically defined in this Act or the contrary is stated or clearly appears from the context, the definitions set forth in the California Political Reform Act (California Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014), as amended, shall govern the interpretation of this Act.

- A. "Broad-based political committee" means a committee of persons which has been in existence for more than six (6) months, receives contributions from one hundred (100) or more persons, and acting in concert makes contributions to five (5) or more candidates.
- B. "Candidate" means any candidate, as defined by the California Political Reform Act, for City Office.
- C. "City" means the City of Oakland.
- D. "City Office" includes, but is not limited to, City of Oakland Mayor (Mayor), City of Oakland City Attorney (City Attorney), City of Oakland City Auditor (City Auditor), City of Oakland City Councilmembers (Councilmembers), and Oakland School Board Directors (School Board Directors).
- E. "City Official" means any person holding a City Office, any member of a City board or commission, and any City employee.
- F. "Election" means any election for City Office.
- G. "Election cycle" means a four-year period preceding a term of office as defined by the Oakland City Charter, beginning on January 1st, and ending on December 31st of the fourth year thereafter.
- H. "Entity" means any person, other than an individual.

- I. "Local committee" means any committee, as defined in the California Political Reform Act, that is required by the California Political Reform Act to file campaign statements with the City.
- J. "Person" means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business, trust, company, corporation, association, committee, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.
- K. "Qualified campaign expenditure" for candidates means and includes all of the following:
 - 1. Any expenditure made by a candidate, elected City Official or committee controlled by the candidate or elected City Official, for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the actions of the voters for or against the election of any candidate.
 - 2. A nonmonetary contribution provided at the request of or with the approval of the candidate, elected City Official or committee controlled by the candidate or elected City Official.

"Qualified campaign expenditure" does not include any payment if it is clear from the surrounding circumstances that it was not made in any part for political purposes.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article III. - Contribution Limitations

3.12.050 - Limitations on contributions from persons.

- A. No person shall make to any candidate and the controlled committee of such a candidate, and no candidate and the candidate's controlled committee shall receive from any such person, a contribution or contributions totaling more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), adjusted annually pursuant to Subsection F., for each election except as stated in Subsection B. of this Section.
- B. For candidates who adopt the expenditure ceilings as defined in Article IV of this Act, no person shall make to a candidate and the controlled committee of such candidate, and no such candidate and the controlled committee of such candidate shall receive contributions totaling more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), adjusted annually pursuant to Subsection F., from any person for each election.
- C. Any person who makes independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate shall not receive any contribution for the purpose of influencing elections for City Office in excess of the amounts stated in Subsection A.
- D. This Section is not intended to prohibit or regulate contributions to persons or broad based political committees for the purpose of influencing elections for offices other than City offices.
- E. Persons making independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate shall separately account for contributions received and contributions or expenditures made for the purpose of influencing such elections for City office. Where a person has separately accounted for such contributions and expenditures for such elections for City office, contributors to that person may contribute more than the amount set forth in Subsection A. of this Section, so long as no portion of the contribution in excess of the set forth amounts is used to influence elections for City office.
- F. Beginning January 1, 2017, the Public Ethics Commission shall once annually, on a calendar year basis, increase the contribution limitation amounts upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased. The increase of the contribution limitation amounts shall not exceed the CPI increase, using 1999 as the index year. The adjustment shall be rounded to the nearest one hundred (100). The Public Ethics Commission shall publish the contribution limitation amounts no later than February 1st of each year.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.060 - Limitations on contributions from broad-based political committees.

- A. No broad-based political committee shall make to any candidate and the controlled committee of such a candidate, nor shall a candidate and the candidate's controlled committee receive from a broad-based political committee, a contribution or contributions totaling more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), adjusted annually pursuant to Subsection F., for each election except as stated in Subsection B. of this Section.
- B. For candidates who adopt the expenditure ceilings as defined in Article IV of this Act, no broad-based political committee shall make to any candidate and the controlled committee of such candidate, nor shall a candidate and the candidate's controlled committee receive from a broad-based political committee, a contribution or contributions totaling more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), adjusted annually pursuant to Subsection F., for each election.
- C. Any broad-based political committee that makes independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate shall not receive any contribution for the purpose of influencing elections for City office in excess of the amounts stated in Subsection A. of this Section.
- D. This Section is not intended to prohibit or regulate contributions to persons or broad-based political committees for the purpose of influencing elections for offices other than City offices.
- E. A broad-based political committee making independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate shall separately account for contributions received and contributions or expenditures made for the purpose of influencing such elections for City office. Where a broad-based political committee has separately accounted for such contributions and expenditures for such elections for City office, contributors to that broad-based political committee may contribute more than the amounts set forth in Subsection A. of this Section, so long as no portion of the contribution in excess of the set forth amounts is used to influence elections for City office.
- F. Beginning January 1, 2017, the Public Ethics Commission shall once annually, on a calendar year basis, increase the contribution limitation amounts upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased. The increase of the contribution limitation amounts shall not exceed the CPI increase, using 1999 as the index year. The adjustment shall be rounded to the nearest one hundred (100). The Public Ethics Commission shall publish the contribution limitation amounts no later than February 1st of each year.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.065 - Contributions made under legal name.

No contributions shall be made, directly or indirectly, by any person in a name other than the name by which such person is identified for legal purposes.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.070 - Return of contributions.

A contribution shall not be considered received if it is not negotiated, deposited, or utilized, and in addition it is returned to the donor no later than five (5) business days after the closing date of the campaign statement on which the contribution would otherwise be reported. In the case of a late contribution as defined in Government Code Section 82036, it shall not be deemed received if it is returned to the contributor within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.080 - Aggregation of contributions.

For purposes of the contribution limitations enumerated in this Act, the following shall apply:

- A. Two (2) or more entities' contributions shall be aggregated when any of the following circumstances apply:
 - 1. The entities share the majority of members of their boards of directors.
 - 2. The entities share three (3) or more, or a majority of, officers.
 - 3. The entities are owned or controlled by the same majority shareholder or shareholders.
 - 4. The entities are in a parent-subsidary relationship.
 - 5. One entity finances, maintains, or controls the other entity's contributions or expenditures.
- B. Contributions made by entities that are majority-owned by any person shall be aggregated with the contributions of the majority owner and all other entities majority-owned by that person, unless those entities act independently in their decision to make contributions.
- C. The contributions of an entity whose contributions are directed and controlled by any person shall be aggregated with contributions made by that person and any other entity whose contributions are directed and controlled by that same person.
- D. If two (2) or more entities make contributions that are directed and controlled by a majority of the same persons, the contributions of those entities shall be aggregated.
- E. No committee and no broad-based political committee which supports or opposes a candidate shall have as officers individuals who serve as officers on any other committee which supports or opposes the same candidate. No such committee or broad-based political committee shall act in concert with, or solicit or make contributions on behalf of, any other committee or broad-based political committee. This subdivision shall not apply to treasurers of committees if these treasurers do not participate in or control in any way a decision on which a candidate or candidates receive contributions.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.090 - Loans.

- A. A loan shall be considered a contribution from the maker and the guarantor of the loan and shall be subject to the contribution limitations of this Act.
- B. Every loan to a candidate or the candidate's controlled committee shall be by written agreement and shall be filed with the candidate's or committee campaign statement on which the loan is first reported.
- C. The proceeds of a loan made to a candidate by a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business on the same terms available to members of the public and which is secured or guaranteed shall not be subject to the contribution limitations of this Act.
- D. Other than loans pursuant to Subsection C. of this Section, extensions of credit in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for a period of more than ninety (90) days are subject to the contribution limitations of this Act, unless the candidate can demonstrate good faith evidence of an intent to repay through a set payment schedule which is being adhered to through repayment of the extension of credit on a regular basis.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.100 - Family contributions.

- A. Contributions by two (2) individuals married to each other shall be treated as separate contributions and shall not be aggregated.

- B. Contributions by children under eighteen (18) years of age shall be treated as contributions by their parents and attributed proportionately to each parent (one-half (½) to each parent or the total amount to a single custodial parent).

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.110 - One campaign committee and one checking account per candidate.

A candidate shall have no more than one campaign committee and one checking account for the City office being sought, out of which all expenditures for that office shall be made. This Section should not prohibit the establishment of savings accounts, but no qualified campaign expenditures shall be made out of these accounts.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.115 - Ballot measure committees controlled by candidates or elected City Officials.

A candidate or elected City Official who controls a ballot measure committee may not directly or indirectly use or influence the use of ballot measure committee funds to support the candidate's or elected City Official's election or to support or oppose other candidates, and may not transfer such funds to another committee supporting the candidate's or elected City Official's election, or supporting or opposing other candidates. The foregoing notwithstanding, the prohibitions of this Section shall not apply to a committee created to oppose or support the qualification of a recall measure and/or the recall election of the controlling candidate or controlling elected City Official.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.116 - Disclosure of principal officers of all non-candidate controlled committees, including ballot measure and independent expenditure committees.

All non-candidate controlled recipient committees, including ballot measure committees and general purpose committees, required to file campaign statements in the City of Oakland, must disclose the principal officers of the committee. Such disclosure must include the full name, street address, and telephone number of at least one (1) principal officer, as well as all principal officers up to a total of three (3). This disclosure shall be made on the statement of organization (FPPC Form 410) by the filing deadlines required by the California Political Reform Act statute and regulations, or, if no Form 410 is required for that committee, the next required campaign statement. Such information shall be filed with the Public Ethics Commission and made available to the public.

(Ord. of 13545, 6-18-2019)

3.12.117 - Reporting by City Officials who solicit campaign contributions from persons contracting or proposing to contract with the City.

- A. Any public servant, as defined by Section 2.25.030(D), who is required to file a statement of economic interests (Form 700) and who successfully solicits a contribution of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or more per calendar year to any committee from any person who contracts or proposes to contract with the official's department during the contractor prohibition time period specified in Section 3.12.140, must disclose such solicitation within thirty (30) days of the solicitation to the Public Ethics Commission using a process provided by the Public Ethics Commission.

1. Mayor, Members of the Council, and their Senior Staff Members. For purposes of this section, the "department" of the Mayor, member of the Council, or Senior Staff Member to either the Mayor or member of Council shall be the City, and the disclosure requirement shall apply when the solicitation is made to a person contracting or proposing to contract with the City.
 - a. For purposes of this section, a "senior staff member" to either the Mayor or a member of the Council means an individual employed in any of the following positions: Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff,

Communications or other Director, Legislative or Policy Aide, or any other position in the Mayor's or Council Member's office who is required to file a Form 700.

(Ord. of 13545, 6-18-2019)

3.12.120 - Money received by elected City Officials and candidates treated as contributions, income or gifts.

Any funds received by any elected City Official, candidate, or committee controlled by an elected City Official or candidate shall be considered either a campaign contribution, income or a gift. All campaign contributions received by such persons shall be subject to the provisions of this Act unless such campaign contributions are used exclusively for elections held outside the jurisdiction. All income and gifts shall be subject to the disqualification provisions of the California Political Reform Act.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.130 - Contributor identification and restriction on use of cash.

- A. No contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more shall be deposited into a campaign checking account of a candidate or local committee unless the name, address, occupation, and employer of the contributor is on file in the records of the recipient of the contribution.
- B. No person shall make, and no candidate or local committee shall receive, a contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more in cash.
- C. No candidate or local committee shall make an expenditure of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more in cash.
- D. No person shall make a contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more other than an in-kind contribution unless in the form of a written instrument containing the name of the donor and the name of the payee and drawn from the account of the donor or the intermediary, as defined in Government Code Section 84302.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.140 - Contractors doing business with the City or the Oakland Unified School District prohibited from making contributions.

- A. No person who contracts or proposes to contract with or who amends or proposes to amend such a contract with the City for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the City, for selling or leasing any land or building to the City, or for purchasing or leasing any land or building from the City, whenever the value of such transaction would require approval by the City Council shall make any contribution to the Mayor, a candidate for Mayor, a City Councilmember, a candidate for City Council, the City Attorney, a candidate for City Attorney, the City Auditor, a candidate for City Auditor, or committee controlled by such elected City Official or candidate at any time between commencement of negotiations and one hundred eighty (180) days after the completion or the termination of negotiations for such contract.
- B. No person who contracts or proposes to contract with or who amends or proposes to amend such a contract with the Oakland School District, for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the School District, for selling or leasing any land or building to the School District, or for purchasing or leasing any land or building from the School District, whenever the value of such transaction would require approval by the School Board, shall make any contribution to a School Board member, candidate for School Board Directors or committee controlled by such elected City Official or candidate at any time between commencement of negotiations and one hundred eighty (180) days after the completion or termination of negotiations for such contract.
- C. If a person is an entity, the restrictions of Subsections A. and B. also apply to all of the entity's principals, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. The entity's board chair, president, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and

- any individual who serves in the functional equivalent of one or more of those positions;
2. Any individual who owns an ownership interest in the entity of twenty (20) percent or more; and
 3. An individual employee, independent contractor, or agent of the entity, that represents or is authorized to represent the entity before the City in regards to the contract or proposal contract.
- D. "Services" means and includes labor, professional services, consulting services, or a combination of services and materials, supplies, commodities and equipment which shall include public works projects.
- E. For contributions to elected City Officials other than School Board Directors, transactions that require approval by the City Council include but are not limited to:
1. Contracts for the procurement of services that are professional or consulting services exceeding fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).
 2. Contracts for the procurement of services exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), other than contracts for professional or consulting services.
 3. Contracts for the furnishing of any materials, supplies, commodities or equipment exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00).
 4. Contracts for the sale or lease of any building or land to or from the City.
 5. Amendments to contracts described in Subsections E.1., 2., 3., and 4. of this Section.
- F. For contributions to School Board Directors, transactions that require approval by the School Board include but are not limited to:
1. Professional services and consulting contracts exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), including personal service agreements.
 2. Contracts requiring School Board approval under Public Contract Code Section 20111.
 3. Construction contracts exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) whether or not they are subject to the provisions of the Public Contract Code.
 4. Contracts for the sale or lease of any building or land to or from the School District.
 5. Amendments to contracts described in Subsections F.1., 2., 3., and 4. of this Section.
- G. "Commencement of negotiations" for City contracts occurs when a contractor or contractor's agent formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment to any City Official or when a City Official formally proposes submission of a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment from a contractor or contractor's agent.
- H. Reserved.
- I. "Commencement of negotiations" for Oakland School District contracts occurs when a contractor or contractor's agent formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment to any elected or appointed School District officer or employee or when any elected or appointed School District officer or employee formally proposes submission of a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment from a contractor or contractor's agent.
 - J. "Commencement of negotiations" does not include unsolicited receipt of proposal or contract information or documents related to them, requests to be placed on mailing lists or routine inquiries for information about a particular contract, request for proposal or any information or documents relating to them or attendance at an informational meeting.
 - K. "Completion of negotiations" occurs when the City or the School District executes the contract or amendment.
 - L. "Termination of negotiations" occurs when the contract or amendment is not awarded to the contractor or when the contractor files a written withdrawal from the negotiations, which is accepted by a City Official or an appointed or elected School District officer or employee.

- M. The Oakland City Administrator shall be responsible for implementing procedures for City contracts to ensure compliance with this Act. A proposed or current contractor must sign and date the following statement at the time formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment:

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act limits campaign contributions and prohibits contributions from contractors doing business with the City of Oakland or the Oakland Unified School District during specified time periods. Violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

I have read Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 3.12, including section 3.12.140, the contractor provisions of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, and certify that I/we have not knowingly, nor will I/we make contributions prohibited by the Act.

Business Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____

The signed and dated statement must be received and filed by the City Clerk at the same time the proposal is submitted. Contracts may not be awarded to any contractors who have not signed this certification. The City Clerk shall keep an updated list of current contractors available for inspection.

- N. The Oakland Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for implementing procedures for Oakland School District contracts to ensure contractor compliance with the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. A proposed or current contractor must sign and date the following statement at the time the contractor formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment:

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act limits campaign contributions and prohibits contributions from contractors doing business with the City of Oakland or the Oakland Unified School District during specified time periods. Violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

I have read Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 3.12, including section 3.12.140, the contractor provisions of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, and certify that I/we have not knowingly, nor will I/we make contributions prohibited by the Act.

Business Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____

The signed and dated statement must be received and filed with the School District at the same time the proposal is submitted. Contracts may not be awarded to any contractors who have not signed this certification. The School District shall keep an updated list of current contractors available for inspection.

- O. A person who contracts with the City or the School District for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the City or the School District, or for selling any land or building to the City or the School District or for purchasing any land or building from the City or the School District, or for leasing any land to or from the School District, whenever the value of such transaction would require approval by the City Council or the School Board, and who violates Subsection A. of this Section, shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of Article IX of this Act.
- P. Candidates and their controlled committees shall include a notice on all campaign fundraising materials equivalent to eight-point roman boldface type, which shall be in a color or print which contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible, and in a printed or drawn box and set apart from any other printed matter. The notice shall consist

of the following statement:

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act limits campaign contributions by all persons (OMC §§ 3.12.050 and 3.12.060) and prohibits contributions during specified time periods from contractors doing business with the City of Oakland or the Oakland Unified School District (OMC § 3.12.140).

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.150 - Officeholder fund.

- A. Every elected City Official shall be permitted to establish one officeholder expense fund. All contributions deposited into the officeholder expense fund shall be deemed to be held in trust for expenses associated with holding the office currently held by the elected City Official. Contributions to the officeholder fund must be made by a separate check or other separate written instrument. Single contributions may not be divided between the officeholder fund and any other candidate committee. For District Councilmembers, City Auditor and School Board Directors total contributions to an officeholder fund shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year in office. For Councilmember-At-Large and City Attorney, total contributions to an officeholder fund shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) per year in office. For the office of the Mayor, total contributions to an officeholder fund shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) per year in office.
- B. Expenditures from an officeholder fund may be made for any political, governmental or other lawful purpose, but may not be used for any of the purposes prohibited in Subsection C.1. through 5. of this Section. Such allowable expenditures shall include, but are not limited to the following categories:
 1. Expenditures for fundraising (including solicitations by mail) for the officeholder expense fund;
 2. Expenditures for office equipment, furnishings and office supplies;
 3. Expenditures for office rent;
 4. Expenditures for salaries of part-time or full-time staff employed by the elected City Official for officeholder activities;
 5. Expenditures for consulting, research, polling, photographic or similar services except for campaign expenditures for any city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
 6. Expenditures for conferences, meetings, receptions, and events attended in the performance of government duties by (1) the elected City Official; (2) a member of the elected City Official's staff; or (3) such other person designated by the elected City Official who is authorized to perform such government duties;
 7. Expenditures for travel, including lodging, meals and other related disbursements, incurred in the performance of governmental duties by (1) the elected City Official, (2) a member of the elected City Official's staff, (3) such other person designated by the elected City Official who is authorized to perform such government duties, or a member of such person's household accompanying the person on such travel;
 8. Expenditures for meals and entertainment directly preceding, during or following a governmental or legislative activity;
 9. Expenditures for donations to tax-exempt educational institutions or tax exempt charitable, civic or service organizations, including the purchase of tickets to charitable or civic events, where no substantial part of the proceeds will have a material financial effect on the elected officer, any member of his or her immediate family, or his or her committee treasurer;
 10. Expenditures for memberships to civic, service or professional organizations, if such membership bears a reasonable relationship to a governmental, legislative or political purpose;
 11. Expenditures for an educational course or educational seminar if the course or seminar maintains or improves skills which are employed by the elected City Official or a member of the elected City Official's staff in the

- performance of his or her governmental responsibilities;
12. Expenditures for advertisements in programs, books, testimonials, souvenir books, or other publications if the advertisement does not support or oppose the nominations or election of a candidate for city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
 13. Expenditures for mailing to persons within the City which provide information related to City-sponsored events, school district-sponsored events, an official's governmental duties or an official's position on a particular matter pending before the Council, Mayor, or School Board;
 14. Expenditures for expressions of congratulations, appreciation or condolences sent to constituents, employees, governmental officials, or other persons with whom the elected City Official communicates in his or her official capacity;
 15. Expenditures for payment of tax liabilities incurred as a result of authorized officeholder expense fund transactions;
 16. Expenditures for accounting, professional and administrative services provided to the officeholder fund;
 17. Expenditures for ballot measures.
- C. Officeholder expense funds shall not be used for the following:
1. Expenditures in connection with a future election for any city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
 2. Expenditures for campaign consulting, research, polling, photographic or similar services for election to city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
 3. Membership in any athletic, social, fraternal, veteran or religious organization;
 4. Supplemental compensation for employees for performance of an act which would be required or expected of the person in the regular course or hours of his or her duties as a City Official;
 5. Any expenditure that would violate the provisions the California State Political Reform Act, including Government Code Sections 89506 and 89512 through 89519.
- D. No funds may be transferred from the officeholder fund of an elected City Official to any other candidate committee.
- E. Annual contributions received by or made to the officeholder fund shall be subject to the contribution limitations of Article III of this Act.
- F. Expenditures made from the officeholder fund shall not be subject to the voluntary expenditure ceilings of Article IV of this Act.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.160 - Allowance for donation of office space.

- A. Donation of office space for use by elected City Officials in furtherance of their duties and responsibilities by a person or broad based political committee shall not be considered a campaign contribution subject to the provisions of this Act, provided that:
1. The donation is made to the City and accepted pursuant to Oakland City Charter Section 1203 for use by the Mayor, Councilmembers, City Attorney or City Auditor or in the case of School Board Directors, the donation is made to the Oakland Unified School District; and
 2. The name, address, employer, and occupation of the donor, and the current market value of the donated office space, are provided to the City Clerk.
- B. Use of office space donated pursuant to this Section by an elected City Official shall not be considered a "qualified campaign expenditure" pursuant to Section 3.12.040 of this Act.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.170 - Legal expense funds.

- A. An elected City Official or candidate may receive contributions for a separate legal expense fund, for deposit into a separate account, to be used solely to defray attorney's fees and other legal costs incurred in the candidate's or elected City Official's legal defense to any civil, criminal, or administrative action or actions arising directly out of the conduct of the campaign or election process, or the performance of the candidate's or elected City Official's governmental activities and duties. Contributions to the legal expense fund must be earmarked by the contributor for contribution to the fund at the time the contribution is made. All funds contributed to an elected City Official or candidate for legal expense fund must be deposited into the elected City Official's appropriate campaign bank account prior to being deposited into the legal expense fund. The legal expense fund may be in the form of a certificate of deposit, interest-bearing savings account, money market account, or similar account, which shall be established only for the legal expense fund.
- B. Contributions received by or made to the legal expense fund shall not be subject to the contribution limitations of Article III of this Act.
- C. Expenditures made from the legal expense fund shall not be subject to the voluntary expenditure ceilings of Article IV of this Act.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.180 - Volunteer services exemption.

Volunteer personal services, and payments made by an individual for his or her own travel expenses if such payments are made voluntarily without any understanding or agreement that they shall be directly or indirectly repaid to him or her, are not contributions or expenditures subject to this Act.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article IV. - Expenditure Ceilings

3.12.190 - Expenditure ceilings.

All candidates who adopt campaign expenditure ceilings as defined below are permitted the higher contribution limit as defined in Subsections 3.12.050.B. and 3.12.060.B. of this Act. Before receiving any contributions at the higher contribution limit, candidates who adopt voluntary expenditure ceilings must first file a statement with the Public Ethics Commission on a form approved for such purpose indicating acceptance of the expenditure ceiling. Said statement shall be filed no later than the time for filing for candidacy with the City Clerk. This statement will be made public.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.200 - Amount of expenditure ceilings.

A candidate for office of Mayor who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified expenditures exceeding seventy cents (\$0.70) per resident for each election in which the candidate is seeking elective office. A candidate for other Citywide offices who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified expenditures exceeding fifty cents (\$0.50) per resident for each election in which the candidate is seeking office. A candidate for District City Councilmember who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified expenditures exceeding one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per resident in the electoral district for each election in which the candidate is seeking elective office. A candidate for School Board Director who

voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified campaign expenditures exceeding one dollar (\$1.00) per resident for each election in the electoral district for each election for which the candidate is seeking office. Residency of each electoral district shall be determined by the latest decennial census population figures available for that district.

Beginning on January 1, 2017, the Public Ethics Commission shall once annually on a calendar year basis increase the expenditure ceiling amounts upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased. The increase of the expenditure ceiling amounts shall not exceed the CPI increase, using 1998 as the index year. The increase shall be rounded to the nearest thousand. The City Clerk shall publish the expenditure ceiling amounts no later than February 1st of each year.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.210 - Reserved.

3.12.220 - Expenditure ceilings lifted.

If a candidate declines to accept expenditure ceilings and receives contributions or makes qualified campaign expenditures equal to fifty (50) percent or more of the expenditure ceiling, or if any person makes one or more independent expenditures totaling more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) on a District City Council or School Board election or seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) in a City Attorney, Auditor, Councilmember-at-Large or Mayoral election, the applicable expenditure ceiling shall no longer be binding on any candidate running for the same office, and any candidate running for the same office who accepted expenditure ceilings shall be permitted to continue receiving contributions at the amounts set for such candidates in Subsections 3.12.050.B. and 3.12.060.B. of this Act. The independent expenditure committee amounts of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) and seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) respectively, shall be increased in proportion to any increase of the voluntary expenditure ceiling amounts resulting from an increase in the CPI as provided by Section 3.12.200 of this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article V. - Independent Expenditures

3.12.230 - Independent expenditures for mass mailings, slate mailings or other campaign materials.

- A. Any person who makes independent expenditures for a mass mailing, slate mailing or other campaign materials which support or oppose any candidate shall place the following statement on the mailing in typeface of no smaller than fourteen (14) points:

Notice to Voters

(Required by the City of Oakland)

This mailing is not authorized or approved by any City candidate or election official.

It is paid for

by (name) _____

_____ (address, city, state)

Total cost of this mailing is: (amount)

- B. A committee must disclose the names of persons from whom the committee received its two (2) highest cumulative

contributions of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or more in the same manner as required by California Political Reform Act Section 84506 on all mass mailings and television advertisements that are independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate or measure being voted upon only in the City.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article VI. - Electronic Filing and Recordkeeping Requirements

3.12.240 - Electronic filing of campaign statements.

- A. Electronic Filing of Campaign Statements. Any person required by State or local law to file a campaign statement or report with the local filing officer, shall file the statement or report in an electronic format with the Public Ethics Commission provided that the Public Ethics Commission has prescribed the format at least sixty (60) days before the statement or report is due to be filed.
- B. Continuous Filing of Electronic Statements. Once a committee is subject to the electronic filing requirements imposed by this Section, the committee shall remain subject to the electronic filing requirements, regardless of the amount of contributions received or expenditures made during each reporting period, until the committee terminates pursuant to this Act and the California Political Reform Act.
- C. Late Filing Fees. If any person files an original statement or report after the deadline imposed by State or local law, he or she shall, in addition to any other penalties or remedies established by this Act or State law, be liable in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day after the deadline until the statement or report is filed, to the Public Ethics Commission. No liability under this Subsection shall exceed the cumulative amount stated in the late statement or report, or one hundred dollars (\$100.00), whichever is greater. The Public Ethics Commission shall deposit any funds received under this Section into the City's general fund.
- D. Adoption of General Law. Except as otherwise provided in, or inconsistent with, this Act or other provisions of local law, the provisions of the California Political Reform Act relating to local elections including any subsequent amendments are hereby incorporated as part of this article.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.245 - Recordkeeping requirements.

Every person required by State or local law to file a campaign statement or report with the City shall prepare and retain detailed records (including bills, receipts, and other documents) needed to comply with the filing requirement. The records shall be retained for at least four (4) years following the date the campaign statement or report was filed with the Public Ethics Commission.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article VII. - Violations Related to Enforcement

3.12.250 - Violations Related to Enforcement.

False Charges and Information. A person shall not knowingly furnish false, fraudulent, or misleading complaints, evidence, documents, or information to the Public Ethics Commission, or District Attorney, or knowingly misrepresent any material fact, or conceal any evidence, documents, or information relevant to an investigation by the Public Ethics Commission or District Attorney of an alleged violation of this Act.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article VIII. - Agency Responsibility and Authority

3.12.260 - Public Ethics Commission Role and Responsibilities.

The Public Ethics Commission shall:

- A. Oversee compliance with the Act.
- B. Serve as the local filing officer for campaign statements and reports pursuant to the California Political Reform Act.
- C. Adopt, amend, and rescind rules and regulations to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act, subject to Section 2.24.070 of the Oakland Municipal Code.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.265 - Duties of the City Clerk.

The City Clerk shall, at a minimum, provide with the nomination packets given to candidates an advisory sheet directing candidates to the Public Ethics Commission for information about campaign reporting requirements.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article IX. - Enforcement

3.12.270 - Penalties.

Any person who violates this Act is subject to criminal, civil, administrative, and other penalties provided for in this Section. In the event criminal violations of this Act come to the attention of the Public Ethics Commission, it may forward the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

- A. Criminal Penalties. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who knowingly or willfully causes any other person to violate any provision of this Act, or who aids and abets any other person in the violation of any provision of this Act, shall be liable under the provisions of this Act.
 - 1. No person convicted of a misdemeanor under this Act shall act as a lobbyist or as a City contractor for a period of four (4) years following the date of the conviction unless a court, at the time of sentencing, specifically determines that this provision shall not be applicable.
 - 2. For the purposes of this Section, a plea of nolo contendere shall be deemed a conviction.
- B. Civil Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall be liable in a civil action for an amount up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per violation, or up to three (3) times the amount the person failed to report properly or unlawfully contributed expended, gave or received, whichever is greater. A decision by the Public Ethics Commission to bring a civil action requires an affirmative vote of at least five (5) of its members.
 - 1. If two (2) or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.
 - 2. In determining the amount of liability, a court may take into account the seriousness of the violation and the degree of culpability of the defendant.

- C. Administrative Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this Act, who causes any other person to violate this Act, or who aids and abets any other person in the violation of any provision of this Act, shall be liable in a proceeding before the Public Ethics Commission held pursuant to the Public Ethics Commission's Complaint Process. The Public Ethics Commission may impose administrative penalties in an amount up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or up to three (3) times the amount the person failed to report properly or unlawfully contributed, expended, given, or received, whichever is greater. In addition to administrative penalties, the Public Ethics Commission may issue warnings or remedial measures.

1. If two (2) or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.280 - Injunctive relief.

- A. The Public Ethics Commission may sue for injunctive relief to enjoin violations or to compel compliance with the provisions of Articles III, IV, V, VI, and VII of this Act.
- B. Any individual residing within the City may sue for injunctive relief to enjoin violations or to compel compliance with the provisions of Articles III, IV, V, and VI of this Act.
- C. Any individual, other than the Public Ethics Commission, before filing a civil action pursuant to this Section, shall first file with the Public Ethics Commission a written request for the Public Ethics Commission to commence the action. The request shall contain a statement of the grounds for believing a cause of action exists. The Public Ethics Commission shall respond in writing within ninety (90) days after receipt of the request indicating whether they intend to file an administrative or civil action. If the Public Ethics Commission indicates in the affirmative and brings an administrative or civil action within sixty (60) days thereafter, no other action may be brought unless the action brought by the Public Ethics Commission is dismissed without prejudice.
- D. If the Public Ethics Commission needs additional time to determine whether to bring an action or needs additional time to bring an action, it may, by resolution indicating evidence of good cause and notice thereof to the requestor, extend the ninety (90) day time period by another sixty (60) days. If the Public Ethics Commission indicates they will not pursue the matter, or if it does not pursue an administrative or civil action within the sixty (60) day period following their affirmative response to the requestor, the requestor may file suit pursuant to this Section. No resident may bring an action pursuant to this Section if the Public Ethics Commission has commenced an administrative action or a law enforcement agency has commenced criminal action arising out of the same facts.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.290 - Forfeiture.

Any person who receives a financial benefit as a result of a violation of this Act by any person shall be liable for disgorging to the City's general fund up to the amount of the financial benefit received as a result of the violation.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.300 - Costs of litigation.

The court may award to a party, other than the City or any of its commissions, boards, departments or agencies, who prevails in any civil action authorized by this Act, his or her costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.310 - Limitation of actions.

- A. A criminal action alleging a violation of this Act may only be commenced by the Alameda County District Attorney or the Attorney General and no more than four (4) years after the date of the violation.
- B. A civil action alleging a violation of this Act may only be commenced by the Public Ethics Commission or an individual residing in the City and no more than five (5) years after the date of the violation.
- C. An administrative action alleging a violation of this Act may only be commenced by the Public Ethics Commission and no more than five (5) years after the date of the violation.
- D. Commencement of an administrative action is the date the Public Ethics Commission sends written notification to the respondent of the allegation pursuant to the Commission's Complaint Procedures.
- E. Unless otherwise prescribed by applicable law, the date of the violation means the earliest date when the complainant, the Public Ethics Commission, or other prosecuting authority has, or reasonably should have, knowledge of the violation and its cause, and a suspicion of wrongdoing. Suspicion shall be determined from an objective standpoint of what is reasonable for the complainant, the Public Ethics Commission, or other prosecuting authority to know or suspect under the facts of the situation.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.320 - Liability.

- A. In addition to a committee itself, persons who qualify under the California Political Reform Act as principal officers of the committee are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee. For committees controlled by a candidate, the candidate and the committee's treasurers are deemed to be principal officers.
- B. In addition to a person whose conduct is required or prohibited under this Act, an agent acting on behalf of that person is jointly and severally liable for a violation that arises out of the agent's actions. There is a rebuttable presumption that the following persons are agents of a committee:
 - 1. A current or former officer of the committee;
 - 2. An employee of the committee;
 - 3. A person who has received compensation or reimbursement from the committee; and
 - 4. A person who holds or has held a position within the committee organization that reasonably appears to be able to authorize expenditures for committee activities.
- C. This Section does not limit potential liability for persons who cause another person to violate this Act or who aids and abets another person in a violation.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.330 - Disqualification.

In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, if a candidate receives a contribution in violation of Sections 3.12.050 and 3.12.060, the official shall not be permitted to make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which the contributor has a financial interest. The provisions of Government Code Sections 87100 et seq. and the regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission shall apply to interpretations of this Section.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

Article X. - Miscellaneous Provisions

3.12.340 - Applicability of other laws.

Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person from applicable provisions of any other laws of this State or jurisdiction.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.350 - Reference to other laws.

All references in this Act to other laws refer to those laws as amended.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)

3.12.360 - Severability.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provisions of this Act are severable.

(Ord. No. 13399, § 1, 11-29-2016)