



City of Arts & Innovation

Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee

**TO: INCLUSIVENESS, COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT, AND GOVERNMENTAL
PROCESSES COMMITTEE**

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2020

WARDS: ALL

FROM: CITY CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT: AB 571 - CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

ISSUE:

Adopt campaign contribution limits for Mayor and City Council candidates or accept State contribution limits pursuant to AB 571.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee recommend that the City Council either adopt campaign contribution limits for Mayor and City Council candidates effective following the November 3, 2020, election or accept State contribution limits pursuant to AB 571.

BACKGROUND:

AB 571 adopted by the State legislature in 2019 provides that commencing January 1, 2021, candidates for City office will be subject to limitations on contributions set for State offices. However, the bill further authorizes a city to impose a limitation that is different from the State limitation imposed by the bill. If the City takes no action and does not impose its own campaign contribution limits, candidates will be subject to the State limitations. The State limitation on contributions from individuals is \$3,000 per election, as that amount is adjusted by the Fair Political Practices Commission in January of every odd-numbered year.

Prior to AB 571, cities already had the ability to adopt campaign contribution limits. The City of Riverside does not have any such regulations in place. Should the City enact contribution limits different from the State, the City holds the responsibility to enforce those limits. The City of Riverside may adopt regulations that determine there shall be no contribution limits which mirrors current practice. If so, Mayor and City Council candidates will have no contribution limits and not be subject to State limitations.

The three options available to the City Council are:

- Do nothing and let State law take effect on January 1, 2021, accepting the State contribution limits
- Adopt an ordinance setting a contribution limit different from State law
- Adopt an ordinance declaring there to be no contribution limits for City offices

The City Attorney and City Clerk recommend that any ordinance be effective following the November 3, 2020, Mayor run-off election so as not to interfere with the current campaigns.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Costs to receive, review, and file campaign reporting forms is absorbed within the City Clerk's Budget. Enforcement costs for any locally imposed limits is unknown.

Prepared by: Colleen J. Nicol, City Clerk
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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: AB 571