



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

FROM: CITY CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: AB 571 - CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

ISSUE:

Adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 1.15 of the Riverside Municipal Code adding campaign contribution limits for Mayor and City Council candidates pursuant to AB 571.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council introduce and subsequently adopt the attached ordinance amending Chapter 1.15 of the Riverside Municipal Code establishing no limits on campaign contributions for Mayor and City Council candidates.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee met on October 7, 2020 with Chair Melendrez, Vice Chair Fierro and Member Conder present to consider AB 571 and whether to impose campaign contribution limits. After discussion the Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council set no campaign contribution limits for Mayor and City Council candidates.

DISCUSSION:

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 currently \$4,700 per election. 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. As stated above, should the City Council take no action, then

the campaign contribution limits for Mayor and City Council candidates will be the State limit.

The ordinance be effective following the November 3, 2020, Mayor run-off election and will not interfere with the current campaigns.

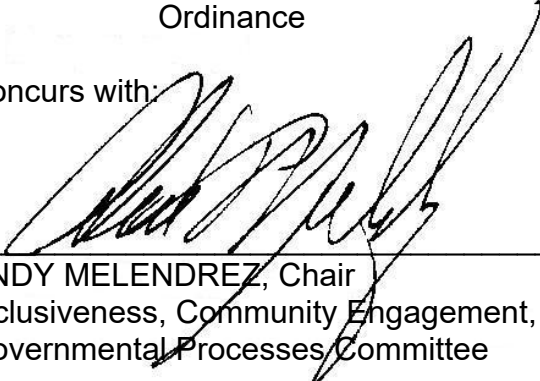
FISCAL IMPACT:

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
Kristi J. Smith, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: AB 571
Ordinance

Concurs with:



ANDY MELENDREZ, Chair
Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and
Governmental Processes Committee