

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of Council

**FROM:** Jennifer D. Readler, Law Director  
MacKenzie B. Newberry

**DATE:** October 28, 2021

**RE:** Campaign Finance Contribution Limitations and Financial Disclosures

---

### **I. BACKGROUND**

As you are aware, the City of Dublin created its own set of regulations related to campaign finance for City Council candidates. The Code has regulations for the amount of campaign contributions that an individual running for City Council may receive. These amounts have not been updated for some time.

The Dublin Code also has regulations requiring filing campaign disclosure statements with the Clerk of Council. The current version of the regulations requires three filings that are to be made in addition to the disclosures required under the Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”) which are to be filed with the County Board of Elections. The City of Dublin filing dates are not all the same filing dates as those required under the ORC.

We have been asked to bring this topic to Council for discussion and direction. Section II below first provides an overview of the legal considerations with respect to campaign contribution limits. Section II then outlines the contribution limits used by the City of Dublin, other Ohio municipalities, and other municipalities throughout the United States. Section III of this Memorandum provides an overview of the campaign finance disclosures currently required under the Dublin City Code and those required under the ORC.

### **II. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS**

Subsection a., below, provides an overview of the legal considerations for the City with respect to setting campaign finance contribution limits. Subsections b. through e. provide an overview of the current limits imposed on City Council candidates by the City of Dublin, other Ohio municipalities, and lastly other municipalities throughout the United States.

#### **a. Legality of Campaign Contribution Limits**

As a charter municipality, Dublin can pass regulations governing campaigning. In the case of *Frank v. City of Akron*, 290 F.3d 813 (2002), the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the

constitutionality of Akron, a charter city's, campaign contribution limitations and reporting requirements for local political candidates.

#### **b. The City of Dublin Campaign Contribution Limits**

Dublin has a population of approximately 49,037 people. The Code indicates that no candidate for a ward Council seat can receive from an individual, political action committee, separate segregated fund, political contribution entity, campaign committee, political party, or other organization, a donation or in-kind contribution totaling more than \$150 per calendar year. The Code prohibits a candidate for an at-large City Council seat from receiving a donation or in-kind contribution from the same sources outlined above totaling more than \$250 per calendar year. These contribution limits do not apply to: (a) unpaid volunteering services, (b) ordinary home hospitality, (c) personal expenses of a volunteer that the volunteer pays for, or (d) the candidate's contributions to their own campaign fund.

The Code indicates that the contribution limits outlined above may be reviewed by City Council every four years, starting in 2012. The Code indicates that Council may consider basing any increase or decrease to these limitations on the yearly average of the previous four years of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as determined by the United States Department of Labor or a successor entity.

#### **c. Campaign Contribution Limits for Other Ohio Municipalities**

##### **i. The City of Akron**

Akron has a population of approximately 197,597 people. The Akron City Code limits monetary or in-kind contributions and loans of candidates running for at-large city council seats to \$750 from an individual, campaign committee, political party, or political action committee per election. The Code limits monetary or in-kind contributions and loans for candidates running for a council ward position to \$500 from the same entities mentioned above, per election. Contributions from the candidates themselves or labor of volunteers are exempt from these limitations. Further, for individuals running for any city council position, there is a limitation on cash contributions of \$25 per election.

Akron last updated their campaign contribution limits in 2014. Just two years prior, in 2012, the limits were raised to \$650 for at-large council candidates and \$400 for ward council candidates. In 2011, the limits were amended to \$450 for at-large council candidates and \$200 for ward council candidates. In 2003, the limits were amended to \$300 for at-large council candidates and \$100 for ward council candidates. In 2000, Akron originally set their contribution limits at \$1,000 for at-large council candidates and \$700 for ward council candidates, per election. The City again considered raising their campaign contribution limits in 2016 and 2019, although the amendments did not pass.

##### **ii. The City of Cincinnati**

Cincinnati as a population of approximately 303,940 people. The Cincinnati City Code limits members of council to receiving between elections not more than \$1,100 from an individual, \$2,700 from a political action committee, or \$10,500 from a legislative campaign fund or political

party. The personal contributions of the candidate or their spouse do not count toward these limits and neither do unexpended permissible contributions raised in one period and carried over to the next. Generally, any donation from a political action committee will be attributed to all affiliated groups such as any entity financed by the same corporation or both the local and national levels of the committee.

iii. The City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland has a population of approximately 381,009 people. The City of Cleveland Code limits contributions to individuals running for city council to \$1,500 from an individual per calendar year. No candidate for council can accept a contribution of more than \$3,000 from any political action committee per calendar year. Lastly, no corporation is permitted to make a contribution to a candidate for city council. These limitations do not apply to a candidate's own contributions to their campaign. Moreover, if the donor is an employee of the City of Cleveland, the candidate for city council cannot accept a donation of more than \$100 per calendar year.

iv. The City of Columbus

Columbus has a population of approximately 898,553 people. The City of Columbus Code limits the contributions of an individual to \$13,704.41 for any candidate for city council per calendar year. No political action committee, political contributing entity, campaign committee (that is not a municipal committee), or federal political committee can contribute more than \$13,704.41 within a calendar year to a city council candidate. No municipal campaign committee can contribute more than \$13,704.41 within a calendar year to a city council candidate. Contributions from City of Columbus employees are prohibited as to an office that is or will be their appointing authority.

The City of Columbus Code regarding campaign finance contributions was amended in 2019 and again in 2021. The contribution limits are adjusted by the city clerk in each odd numbered year to be equivalent with the state-wide candidate contribution limits in R.C. 3517.104.

**d. Contributions Under the Ohio Revised Code**

Individuals running for city council positions are not limited in the amount of campaign contributions that they are able to receive under the Ohio Revised Code, other than those received in cash, which has a \$100 limit. These campaigns are governed by municipal and county charters.

**e. Contribution Limits Nationally**

A review of municipalities throughout the United States shows that campaign finance contributions are regulated in several ways. For example, some municipalities set their own campaign contribution limits while others choose to simply enforce, or allow the state to enforce, state mandated limits for local candidates. Municipalities often have their own set of exemptions and additions with respect to contribution limits as well. Below is an overview of some cities throughout the United States.

i. The City of Dallas, Texas

For comparison, Dallas has a population of just over 1.3 million people. The City of Dallas has its own campaign finance contribution limits. Candidates for city council are limited to accepting donations of \$1,000 from individuals per election cycle. Political action committees are permitted to donate up to \$2,500 per election for a city council candidate.

ii. The City of Aurora, Colorado

Aurora has a population of approximately 379,289 people. The City of Aurora sets its own contribution limits. A candidate cannot accept a donation of more than \$400 for a ward council campaign or \$1,000 for an at-large council campaign from an individual or political committee, other than a small donor committee. Non-municipal political organizations can make contributions of the same limits outlined above as long as the funds do not come from a prohibited source. Small donor committees cannot make contributions in excess of ten times the limits established above depending on whether they are contributing to a ward or at-large council race.

iii. The City of Burlingame, California

Burlingame has a population of approximately 30,889 people. In October of 2021, the City of Burlingame voted to raise their campaign contribution limits from \$719.93 for individuals and \$1,439.87 for organizations to \$4,900 for both – the current state limit. The City imposed its original limits in 2007 at \$500 for individual donations and \$1,000 for organizations and the limits have been automatically adjusted up every other year based on information in the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers for San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose.

iv. The City of Newport Beach, California

Newport Beach has a population of approximately 84,534 people. The City of Newport Beach sets its own campaign contribution limits. As of 2021, contributions to individuals running for city council are limited to \$1,300 per election from any person or organization including proprietorships, firms, partnerships, joint ventures, syndicates, business trusts, companies, corporations, limited liability companies, associations, committees, or other organizations of persons. Starting in 2021, the contribution limitations will be updated by the clerk of council every two years to reflect the changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers in the Los-Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area.

v. The City of Seal Beach, California

Seal Beach has a population of approximately 23,896 people. The City of Seal Beach sets its own contribution limits. No candidate for city council is permitted to accept a donation exceeding \$500 from an individual or organization including proprietorships, firms, partnerships, joint ventures, syndicates, business trusts, companies, corporations, limited liability companies, associations, committees, or other organization or persons per election. Notably, this limit does apply to the candidate's spouse, but do not apply to the candidate's personal funds contributed to their campaign.

vi. The City of Orange, California

Orange has a population of approximately 138,669 people. No candidate for city council can accept a donation exceeding \$1,000 from any person, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, limited liability company, association, committee, or other organization of persons per election cycle. A city council election cycle is determined to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> following an election year to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the next election year for such office.

vii. The City of Chula Vista, California

Chula Vista has a population of approximately 274,492 people. The City of Chula Vista sets its own contribution limits. Candidates for city council are prohibited from accepting donations in excess of \$360 from an individual per election. A city council candidate is prohibited from accepting more than \$1,240 from a political party committee. No organization, including political action committees, associations, corporations, committees, companies, trusts, businesses, syndicates, joint ventures, partnerships, firms, labor unions, or proprietorships are permitted to make a contribution of any kind to a city council candidate. Bi-annually, starting in 2013, the contribution limits have been, and will continue to be, adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for the San Diego area for the two-year period ending on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.

### **III. CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE**

Individuals running for local government positions are required to file campaign finance disclosure statements with the County Board of Elections. Municipalities are also able to set their own requirements for the filing of campaign disclosure statements. The specific requirements of the Franklin County Board of Elections and the City of Dublin are outlined below.

#### **a. Financial Disclosures required by the Franklin County Board of Elections**

Under the Ohio Revised Code there are four times of year when a candidate must file campaign finance disclosures. For local candidates, including city council members, there are the following potential filings that must be submitted to the County Board of Elections by 4:00 p.m. on the following days: (a) the annual filing – the last day of business of January to disclose activity from the last filing through December 31<sup>st</sup>, (b) the semiannual filing – the last business day of July to disclose activity from the last filing through June 30<sup>th</sup>, (c) the pre-general filing – the 12<sup>th</sup> day before the election to disclose activity from the last filing through the 20<sup>th</sup> day before the election, and (d) the post-general filing – the 38<sup>th</sup> day after the election to disclose activity from the last filing through the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the filing is due. The Ohio Revised Code has various exceptions to such filing requirements.

#### **b. Financial Disclosures required by the City of Dublin Code**

Currently, the Dublin City Code requires filings at similar, yet different, intervals from those required under the Ohio Revised Code. Under the City Code, a candidate must file disclosure statements by 4:00 p.m. on the following days: (a) on the Friday 32 days before the date of the election to disclose all contributions, in-kind contributions, and expenditures as of the date of the

filing, (b) on the Friday 11 days before the election to disclose each contribution, in-kind contribution, and expenditure, and (c) on the Friday 38 days after the election to disclose each contribution, in-kind contribution, and expenditure as of the date of the filing.

**IV. REQUESTED COUNCIL DIRECTION**

Staff is seeking direction as to the following questions:

- Would Council like Staff to prepare legislation increasing the contribution limitations for ward and at-large Council candidates (currently set at \$150 and \$250 per calendar year)?
- If so, what would the increase be?
- Would Council like Staff to prepare legislation consolidating the filing dates for financial disclosures to be consistent with the two County filing deadlines closest to the election and on forms prescribed by the County?

<u>Franklin County</u>	<u>Dublin</u>
Pre-General filing – 12 <sup>th</sup> day before the election	Pre-Election filing – 32 days before the election
Post-General filing – 38 <sup>th</sup> day after the election	Pre-Election filing – 11 days before the election
	Post-Election filing – 38 days after the election

## CHAPTER 31: CITY OFFICIALS

---

### Section

- 31.01 Mayor
- 31.02 City Manager
- 31.03 Director of Law
- 31.04 Engineering inspectors
- 31.05 Director of Finance
- 31.06 Code enforcement officers
- 31.07 Campaign contribution limits
- 31.08 Campaign finance disclosure
- 31.09 Campaign finance enforcement

### **§ 31.01 MAYOR.**

For provisions concerning the Mayor, see Charter Section 3.04.

### **§ 31.02 CITY MANAGER.**

#### *(A) Duties as central purchasing agent.*

(1) Central purchasing shall be under the direction of the City Manager for all offices, departments, divisions, Boards and Commissions of the municipality.

(2) This section shall pertain primarily to all items or classes of items which are regularly and routinely purchased throughout the year, such as but not limited to: tires for all municipally owned vehicles; motor oils, greases, antifreeze and related items; office supplies of any nature; street maintenance materials such as asphalt mixes, stone, salt.

(3) Such classes of items when possible, shall be handled through annual contracts with the lowest and best bidders, as determined by the Manager. Items not routinely purchased and not available under an annual contract may be purchased by the Manager and by other employees of the municipality, provided, however, that any such purchase which is estimated to be in excess of \$75 must be approved by the Manager. This does not relieve any department head of the responsibility of monitoring and maintaining purchases within their established budgetary limitations.

('80 Code, § 133.01) (Ord. 60-78, passed 6-19-68)

#### *(B) Collection of fees.*

(1) The City Manager is hereby authorized to receive moneys for the municipality in connection with the sale of the zoning ordinances, zoning maps, fines, bonds, and fees imposed by the municipality and fees in connection with applications filed pursuant to the zoning ordinance.

(2) The City Manager shall turn all such moneys received over to the Director of Finance.

('80 Code, § 133.02) (Ord. 37-73, passed 6-18-73)

(C) Authorized agent. The City Manager is designated as the city's authorized agent to apply for and accept a grant from the Public Assistance Grant Program under the Federal Emergency Management Program (FEMA).

(Res. 17-03, passed 4-6-03)

(D) *Supervision of part-time aides.*

(1) The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to establish a program to utilize part-time aides. The Manager is hereby authorized to pay such aides from the General Funds of the municipality or other sources, if available, an amount not to exceed \$4,000 annually.

(2) The aides shall be selected by the City Manager with the intent and purpose being to provide the best capability and training available to accomplish the various assignments as they occur. Preference shall be given to students pursuing studies related to municipal administration or specialties appropriate for specific assignments.

(3) Duties of aides shall include, but not necessarily be restricted to the following:

(a) Research, surveys and accumulation and organization of data related to specific projects requested by Council, the Mayor or the Manager.

(b) Until the full-time staff of the municipality is large enough to provide flexibility, aides may be temporarily assigned to assist or substitute for the clerical assistant.

(4) The Manager shall accept requests for projects from Council members, the Mayor and Finance Director and shall assign aides to accomplish such projects according to his judgment as to the priority of the projects and the ability and availability of the staff aides. The Manager shall report to Council and the Mayor, at least once each month, to advise them of the progress on projects assigned, priority of projects pending and, if appropriate, suggestions on program improvements which may require Council action.

(5) Council reserves the right to instruct the Manager as to priority on any pending project by a majority vote of its elected members.

('80 Code, § 133.03) (Ord. 49-78, passed 5-15-78)

(E) *Manager's Assistant.* The duties of the Manager's Assistant shall be, but are not necessarily limited to, to assist the Manager in all his duties. The Assistant shall also assist other administrative department heads when so requested.

('80 Code, § 133.04) (Ord. 13-79, passed 2-5-79)

***Cross-reference:***

*Charter provisions concerning the Manager, see Charter Article V*

**§ 31.03 DIRECTOR OF LAW.**

The Director of Law is hereby authorized and directed to represent any and/or all of the municipality's elected officials, public officials or employees in any civil claim, demand action or cause of action arising out of or by reason of such official's or employee's service to and for the municipality.

('80 Code, § 135.01) (Res. 24-76, passed 5-17-76)

***Cross-reference:***

*Charter provisions concerning the Director of Law, see Charter Section 6.01*

**§ 31.04 ENGINEERING INSPECTORS.**

(A) Two positions of Engineering Inspector are hereby established.

('80 Code, § 159.01)

(B) Under direction of the Director of Engineering Services, the Engineering Inspector shall perform work related to construction of a variety of public works projects, such as sanitary and storm sewers, streets, water lines. Assuring compliance with plans and specifications is a major task of the Inspector. The duties of the Engineering Inspectors include, but are not limited to:

(1) Inspection of work performed by construction crews, measuring quantities, comparing materials, methods and work to plans and specifications;

(2) Reading and interpreting plans and specifications;

(3) Making notes of work performed, measurements, quantities;

(4) Occasionally supervising other construction inspectors;

(5) Reviewing plans prepared by consulting engineers, recommending corrections, modifications or alteration;

(6) Answering questions relating to construction activities;

(7) Serving as liaison between construction crews and property owners, assuring minimum inconvenience and damage to affected property; and

(8) Performing other duties requiring similar skills.

('80 Code, § 159.02)

(C) Educational and experience requirements are as follows:

(1) High school education or equivalent.

(2) Two years additional training and education in engineering methods desired.

(3) Some construction experience desirable.

(4) Accuracy in making measurements and maintaining records.

(5) Ability to read and interpret plans and construction specifications and to apply such to field conditions.

(6) Ability to work well with people.

('80 Code, § 159.03)

(Ord. 82-79, passed 8-20-79)

### **§ 31.05 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.**

For provisions concerning the Director of Finance, see Charter Section 6.02.

### **§ 31.06 CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

(A) Code Enforcement Officers may be commissioned by the City Manager. Code Enforcement Officers are responsible for the enforcement of the City Codified Ordinances including but not limited to the Zoning Code, Property Maintenance Code, Animal Regulations, Parking Regulations and Health and Safety Regulations. Code Enforcement Officers may issue citations for minor misdemeanor and unclassified minor offenses only. Code Enforcement Officers do not have arrest powers or the right to carry weapons. Any such commission may be terminated by the City Manager.

(B) The City Manager may commission other employees as deemed necessary to effectively administer this section.

(Ord. 40-00, passed 2-22-00; Am. Ord. 47-03, passed 5-5-03)

### **§ 31.07 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.**

(A) *Contribution limitation.* No person, political action committee, separate segregated fund, political contribution entity, campaign committee, political party or other organization, as such terms are defined in R.C. Chapter 3517, shall make and no candidate for ward Council member shall accept a contribution or in-kind contribution combined from the same source of more than \$150 per calendar year and no candidate for at-large Council member shall accept a contribution or in-kind contribution combined from the same source of more than \$250 per calendar year. The contribution limitations may be reviewed by Council every four years beginning in 2012 to determine whether a decrease or increase is warranted. Council may consider basing its increase or decrease rationale on the yearly average of the previous four years of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as determined by the United States Department of Labor or successor entity.

(B) *Application.*

(1) This section shall apply to all candidates for all elected city offices and political action committees, separate segregated funds, political contributing entities, political parties, and any other organization making an expenditure, as such term is defined in R.C. Chapter 3517 in support of or in opposition to candidates for city elected offices.

(2) This section shall not apply to services provided without compensation by persons volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a person, ordinary home hospitality, or the personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that volunteer campaign worker.

(C) *Contribution definition.* Contribution means any money, loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or transfer of funds or anything of value, including a transfer of funds from an inter vivos or testamentary trust or decedent's estate, which contribution is received for the purpose of influencing the results of an election. The date of a contribution is the date that it is received, not the date of deposit or the date on a check.

(D) *In-kind contribution definition.* In-kind contribution means anything of value other than money that is used to influence the results of an election or is transferred to or used in support of or in opposition to a candidate, campaign committee and that is made with the consent of, in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of the benefitted candidate or campaign committee. When disclosing in-kind contributions pursuant to § 31.08 a candidate or campaign committee shall give a fair market value to the in-kind contribution.

(E) *Candidate resources.* The limitations imposed by this section shall not apply to contributions of a candidate's own resources to the candidate's own campaign.

(F) *Independent expenditures.* The limitations imposed by this section shall not apply to independent expenditures. Independent expenditures shall mean expenditures by a person, political action committee, separate segregated fund, political contributing entity, unaffiliated campaign committee, political party, or other organization advocating the election or defeat of an identified candidate or candidates, that is not made with the consent of, in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of any candidate or candidates or of the campaign committee or agent of the candidate or candidates.

(Ord. 50-99, passed 5-17-99; Am. Ord. 04-09, passed 5-4-09)

### **§ 31.08 CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE.**

(A) *Definitions.*

(1) Unless stated otherwise in this section, for the purposes of this section, the words and phrases used herein shall have the meanings set forth in R.C. Title 35. Contribution and in-kind contribution shall have the same meaning as in § 31.07. Expenditure means the disbursement or use of a contribution for the purpose of influencing the results of an election.

(2) Expenditures shall be disclosed by candidates for city elective office as of the date they are paid. The date listed for each expense should be the date that a check or other payment instrument is mailed, handed over or transmitted.

(B) *Application.* This section shall apply to all candidates for all elected city offices.

(C) *Computation of time.* Notwithstanding any other provision in the City Codified Ordinances, any reporting dates set forth below shall be computed using calendar days counting each day.

(D) *Candidate disclosure statements.* In addition to the registration and reporting requirements contained in R.C. Chapter 3517, no candidate for city elective office shall fail to file a signed campaign financial statement with the Clerk of Council pursuant to the deadlines as set forth in § 31.08(E)(1) through (E)(3).

(E) *Deadlines for candidate disclosure statements.*

(1) By 4:00 p.m. on the Friday, 32 days before the date of the election, reporting each contribution and all in-kind contributions and each expenditure as of the date and time of the filing;

(2) By 4:00 p.m. on the Friday, 11 days before the date of the election, reporting each contribution and all in-kind contributions and each expenditure as of the date and time of the filing; and

(3) By 4:00 p.m. on the Friday, 38 days after the date of the election reporting each contribution and all in-kind contributions and each expenditure as of the date and time of the filing. The statements required under this section shall be filed in addition to any other provisions of state law and notwithstanding any provisions of state election law that exempt from reporting requirements contributions under a minimum amount.

(F) *Contents of pre-election disclosure statements.* The statements filed on the Friday, 32 and on the Friday, 11 days before the general election by candidates for elective city offices shall include a list of each contribution received, all in-kind contributions, and the name and address of each donor, an aggregate total of all contributions and in-kind contributions received, and a list of each expenditure of contributions made during the campaign period, and the recipient of each expenditure.

(G) *Contents of post-election disclosure statements.* The statements filed on the Friday, 38 days after the general election by candidates for elected city offices shall include a list of each contribution and in-kind contribution received after the date for the statements filed 11 days before the election, and the name and address of each donor, an aggregate total of all contributions and in-kind contributions received after the date for the statements filed 11 days before the election, and a list of each expenditure of contributions made after the date for the statements filed 11 days before the election, and the recipient of each expenditure.

(H) *Publication.* The Clerk of Council shall publish the candidate disclosure statements discussed in divisions (F) and (G) of this section on the city's web site or other generally accepted medium, as designated by Council.

(I) *Review.* The Director of Accounting and Auditing shall review all candidate disclosure statements filed under the provisions of this section for compliance and shall refer to the Director of Law any matter which appears to possibly conflict with or violate any of the provisions of this section.

(J) *Ohio law.* The provisions of the laws of the State of Ohio pertaining to elections that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section shall remain in full force and effect and shall apply in

addition to the requirements of this section. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the laws of the State of Ohio and the provisions of this section, the provisions of this section shall control.

(Ord. 51-99, passed 5-17-99; Am. Ord. 80-03, passed 7-21-03; Am. Ord. 04-09, passed 5-4-09; Am. Ord. 03-12, passed 2-13-12)

### **§ 31.09 CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENFORCEMENT.**

(A) *Contribution limit penalties.* Any candidate or person who knowingly refuses or fails to comply with the requirements of § 31.07(A) is guilty of a third degree misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than three times the amount accepted. A political action committee, separate segregated fund, political contributing entity, campaign committee, political party, or other organization violating § 31.07(A) shall be fined not more than three times the amount contributed.

(B) *Return of contribution.* In the event that a candidate returns to its source any contribution or contributions received from that source in excess of the amounts permitted under the provisions of this chapter within five business days of the receipt of such excess contribution, such excess contribution shall not be considered to have been solicited or accepted by such candidate and the candidate, person, political action committee, separate segregated fund, political contributing entity, political party, or other organization will not be liable under the provisions of this section.

(C) *Candidate disclosure statement penalties.* Any candidate who fails to file any disclosure statement required under § 31.08, knowingly files inaccurate information, or fails to provide information required in any such report is guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor.

(D) *Reporting.* Any person with personal knowledge of a violation of §§ 31.07 or 31.08 may report such information on a sworn affidavit to the Director of Law. The Director of Law shall transmit sworn affidavits to the City Manager, who shall consult with the Director of Law to hire Special Counsel who shall investigate the allegations and prosecute violations. The Director of Law shall also transmit to the City Manager matters referred from the Director of Accounting and Auditing under § 31.08(I), and the City Manager shall consult with the Director of Law in the same manner to hire Special Counsel. If Special Counsel determines that there is probable cause to prosecute, Special Counsel shall prosecute the matter in the Franklin County Municipal Court.

(Ord. 04-09, passed 5-4-09)

## Statement of Contributions Received

Form 31-A

ORC 3517.10

<b>Full Name of Committee</b>				
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Street Address		Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
City	State <input type="text" value="▼"/>	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Street Address		Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
City	State <input type="text" value="▼"/>	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Street Address		Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
City	State <input type="text" value="▼"/>	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Street Address		Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
City	State <input type="text" value="▼"/>	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Street Address		Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
City	State <input type="text" value="▼"/>	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Full Name of Contributor			Registration Number, if PAC	
Street Address		Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization*		Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
City	State <input type="text" value="▼"/>	Zip Code	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount

\*Required for contributions from individuals over \$100 to statewide and general assembly candidates. If contributor is self-employed, the occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any, rather than employer should be listed. If two or more employees contribute via payroll deduction and exceed the aggregate of \$100, the labor organization of which the employees are members, if any, must also appear. [R.C. 3517.10(B)(4)]

## Statement of Contributions Received - Form 31-A

The Statement of Contributions lists all money received *except* interest income, loans, refunds or prior expenditures that are returned to the committee [R.C. 3517.10(B), (D)].

Every contributor's name, address and amount contributed must be listed *except* contributions of \$25 or less received at specific fund-raising events. The treasurer must still keep records of these contributions even if they are not required in the report. Political parties are *exempt* from listing contributor addresses.

If a contribution is received via periodic payroll deduction, the committee may list the aggregate dollar amount received during the reporting period in the Amount field. As the date received, the committee may use the date range of the pay period or the date of the last pay period in which the contribution was received.

The State block should be completed with the U.S. Post Office's standard two-letter abbreviation. For example, Ohio would appear as OH.

The Date block should be completed with six digits. For example, March 9, 2005, would appear as 03 09 05. The date of a contribution is the date that an agent of the committee receives the contribution. It is not the date of deposit or the date on the check.

A complete street address including a zip code must be provided. The form in which the contribution is received must be indicated, such as check, cash or money order. Cash means currency or coin.

A contribution received from a statewide PAC must list its registration number. A contribution from a Federal PAC may include the Federal PAC registration number. The registration number block may also be used to list that a contribution was received from a political contributing entity (PCE) or a local PAC, neither of which have a registration number.

Legal professional associations and other professional associations that have incorporated and limited liability corporations are not "corporations" under R.C. 3599.03 and are not prohibited from contributing to partisan elections [OEC Adv. No. 96-03]. For reporting purposes, these entities are considered unincorporated associations or, if applicable, partnerships. If a contribution is received from a partnership, unincorporated business or unincorporated association, the name of the person making the contribution *as well* as the company name must be provided.

You should not list the names of two contributors in the Full Name of the Contributor field. Each contribution received from individuals must be attributed to a single person. When a check has more than one individual listed on it, ask who the actual contributor is or list the person who signed the check. (O.A.C. 111-5-21)

Contributors may *not* remain **anonymous** by request. If a contributor does not want to be identified, the contribution *should not be made*. However, if an anonymous contribution is received, efforts must be made by the committee to identify the contributor. If the efforts are unsuccessful, the contribution should have an explanation of the circumstances that caused it to be anonymous and a description of the efforts made to determine the contributor's identity. This information should appear in the address portion of the contribution page entry.

If fund-raising events are held during a reporting period, the **total** amount of contributions received during each event is *transferred* to this form from the Statement of Contributions for a Social or Fund-Raising Event. If public officeholders receive employee contributions, *other than* at a fund-raising event, the total should be *transferred* to this form from the Contributors in Officeholder's Employ form. A transfer is done by placing the words "Total contributions from Form no. 31-E," or "Total employee contributions," as appropriate to the situation, in one of the lines marked Full Name of Contributor.

The total of all the Statement of Contributions pages should appear on line two of the cover page.

The Employer/Occupation/Labor Organization block must be used by statewide or general assembly candidates when they have received individual contributions greater than \$100. If the contributor is self-employed, the occupation and the name of the individual's business, if any, rather than the employer, should be provided. However, **all filers** may use the block for contributions received in any amount from a partnership or unincorporated business when the name of the person as well as the business is required to be provided.

# Statement of Expenditures

Form 31-B

R.C. 3517.10

<b>Full Name of Committee</b>			
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Street Address		Purpose	
City	State OH	Zip Code	Check Number
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Street Address		Purpose	
City	State OH	Zip Code	Check Number
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Street Address		Purpose	
City	State OH	Zip Code	Check Number
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Street Address		Purpose	
City	State OH	Zip Code	Check Number
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Street Address		Purpose	
City	State OH	Zip Code	Check Number
To Whom Paid		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Amount
Street Address		Purpose	
City	State OH	Zip Code	Check Number

Page Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Expenditures - Form 31-B

The Statement of Expenditures lists the purpose for which funds were used, the name and address of the entity to which the expenditure was made, and the amount and date of each expenditure [R.C. 3517.10(B)].

The date listed for each expense should be the date that a check or other payment instrument is mailed, handed over or transmitted. List each payee's complete street address.

The Date block should be completed with six digits. For example, March 9, 2001, would appear as 03 09 01.

The Purpose block should list the specific reason that the expense was made; purposes such as "expense" or "miscellaneous" are vague, and therefore, not acceptable.

The State block should be completed with the U.S. Post Office's standard two-letter abbreviation. For example, Ohio would appear as OH.

The Check Number block should be completed with the number of the committee check used to make the expenditure. Expenditures made by personal check should not be listed on this form.

Copies of canceled checks or receipts for all expenses more than \$25 must be attached to the report. A copy of the bank statement may be used for bank charges more than \$25. In the event that the report is due before checks are available, note within the report which checks are outstanding. As soon as the checks are available, they should be filed as an addendum to the report. The addendum should either bear a cover letter or a report cover page clearly indicating what committee is filing and what type of addendum is being filed. Do not wait until the next reporting period to file the addendum to the former report. Do not attach checks from one report to a report from a different reporting period.

If expenses are billed to a credit card, the Statement of Expenditures should not reflect only a single entry to the credit card company. Each underlying date, recipient, amount and purpose must appear. If the committee uses a credit card, a copy of the itemized billing statement or credit card receipt should be attached in addition to a copy of the canceled check to the credit card company.

The administrative, establishment and solicitation expenses paid by a corporate or labor organization sponsor of a PAC should not be listed on this form. (See Form no. 31-I.)

An internal transfer of committee funds or an investment purchase such as a certificate of deposit should not be shown as an expenditure. The money still belongs to the committee and has only been moved into a different account. The campaign finance law does not prohibit committee investments, although such investments may not be in the name of a candidate.

A check from a contributor that is returned because of insufficient funds should be itemized on this form, stating the name, address, amount and reason.

The total expenditures for each fund-raising event should be transferred to this form. A transfer is done by placing the words, "Expenditures from Form 31-F" in the To Whom Paid block along with the amount in the amount block.

Any independent expenditures made by a campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign committee, PAC or political contributing entity must be itemized on Form 31-U.

The total of all Statement of Expenditures pages should appear on line 5 of the cover page.

**CONTRIBUTION  
LIMIT ORDINANCES  
FROM OHIO  
MUNICIPALITIES**



[Sign In](#) [Sign Up](#)

 Akron

- Code of Ordinances
  - Title 3. ADMINISTRATION
    - Chapter 30. MAYOR AND COUNCIL
      - Article 2. Campaign Finance

---

## § 30.12. Limits on cash contributions.

*Latest version.*

No candidate for Mayor or City Council shall accept, as a campaign contribution, more than twenty-five dollars in cash (i.e., hard currency) from any person per election. No person shall contribute cash in excess of said amount. (Charter § 5(C))

(Ord. 454-2003; Ord. 487-2000)

(Ord. 381-2014)

[Akron](#)

- Code of Ordinances
  - Title 3. ADMINISTRATION
    - Chapter 30. MAYOR AND COUNCIL
      - Article 2. Campaign Finance

## § 30.11. Limits on monetary and in-kind contributions and loans.

*Latest version.*

- A. No candidate for Mayor or At-Large Council shall accept or solicit, as a monetary (i.e., checks, money orders, credit cards) or in-kind campaign contribution or loan, more than seven hundred fifty dollars from any person, campaign committee, political party or political action committee.
- B. No candidate for a Council Ward position shall accept or solicit, as a monetary or in-kind campaign contribution or loan, more than five hundred dollars from any person, campaign committee, political party or political action committee.
- C. No person, political action committee, political party or political campaign shall contribute funds or in-kind contributions in excess of said amounts.
- D. Contributions from the candidate and labor of volunteers are exempt from these provisions.
- E. The contributions set forth in this section shall be per election.
- F. Council shall review and amend, if necessary, the contribution limits every two years beginning in 2012 and continuing in each even-numbered year. Each review shall include a public hearing to obtain public comment regarding campaign finance.

(Ord. 381-2014)

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Ord. 381-2014, § 1, adopted Dec. 15, 2014, amended § 30.11 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former § 30.11, pertained to limits on noncash monetary and in-kind contributions and loans, and derived from Ord. 454-2003; Ord. 487-2000; Ord. 38-2011; and Ord. 398-2012.

# CITY OF CINCINNATI

## Section 1.

### Limits on Contributions

- a. In the period between successive elections of members of council, a person may contribute not more than \$1,100 to any one candidate for council, except that a political action committee may contribute not more than \$2,700, and a political party or legislative campaign fund may contribute not more than \$10,500. Such amounts shall be subject to periodic adjustment pursuant to Section (4)(f)(2) herein.
- b. In the period from the thirty-second day after the municipal general election of a mayor through the next primary for the selection of candidates for mayor, if a primary is held, a person may contribute not more than \$1,100 to any one candidate for mayor, except that a political action committee may contribute not more than \$2,700, and a political party or legislative campaign fund may contribute not more than \$10,500. Such amounts shall be subject to periodic adjustment pursuant to Section (4)(f)(2) herein.
- c. In the period from the day after the primary for the selection of candidates for mayor through the thirty-first day after the next municipal general election of a mayor, identical limitations as in subsection b apply to contributions to any one candidate for mayor in the regular or special election for mayor. If there is no mayoral primary, the contribution limits for mayoral candidates provided in this section shall apply to the period from the thirty-second day after the municipal general election of a mayor through the thirty-first day after the next municipal general election of a mayor.
- d. A candidate in a council or mayoral election may not solicit or accept a contribution proscribed by this section.
  - e. 1) The limit set forth in this section on contributions by a political action committee applies to the combined contributions of all the political action committees established, financed, maintained, or controlled by the same corporation, organization, labor union, continuing association, or other person, including a subsidiary, division, or department thereof.
  - 2) A limit on contributions by a political party applies to the combined contributions of national, state, and local organizations of the same party.
- f. 1) No partnership or other unincorporated business shall make a contribution or contributions solely in the name of the partnership or unincorporated business.
  - 2) Any contribution made from the funds of a partnership or other unincorporated business shall allocate the contribution or a portion of the contribution to the person, owner, member, and/or partner making the contribution.
  - 3) The contribution allocation shall be included in the \$1,100 individual contribution limit for that person, owner, member, and/or partner.
- g. The limitations in this section do not apply to:

- 1) (Repealed)
- 2) an unexpended permissible contribution raised in one period and carried over to the next, or
- 3) the personal contributions of a candidate or the candidate's spouse.

(Amended by Ord. No. 304-2012, eff. Aug. 1, 2012; election of Nov. 2, 2012; amended by Emer. Ord. No. 254-2014, eff. Nov. 4, 2014; election of Nov. 4, 2014; Emer. Ord. No. 229-2018, effective Aug. 1, 2018, election of Nov. 6, 2018)

# CITY OF CLEVELAND

## § 110.02 Limitations on Campaign Contributions

(a) No individual shall make, and no candidate for the office of Mayor on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the office of Mayor shall accept, any contribution which exceeds a total of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per individual contributor per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(b) No political action committee shall make, and no candidate for the office of Mayor on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the office of Mayor shall accept, any contribution which exceeds a total of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00) per political action committee per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(c) No individual shall make, and no candidate for the office of a member of Council on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the office of member of Council shall accept, any contribution which exceeds a total of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per individual contributor per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, no political action committee shall make, and no candidate for the office of member of Council on his or her own behalf, or committee on behalf of a candidate, shall accept any contribution which exceeds a total of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) per political action committee per calendar year, in support of a primary and regular election combined, or primary and special election combined.

(e) No corporation shall make, and no candidate for the offices of Mayor or member of Council shall accept on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the offices of Mayor or member of Council shall accept from a corporation, any contribution in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions in divisions (a) and (c) of this section, no candidate on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate, shall accept, from any City of Cleveland employee a contribution that exceeds a total of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per individual employee per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(g) The limitations set forth in divisions (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section apply to aggregate gifts during any given calendar year. A contributor may make a contribution up to the applicable limit in each of any three (3) non-election years as well as the year of the election.

(h) In the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of member of Council, or the office of Mayor, the contribution limits provided for in this section shall apply to the election campaign period for such office.

(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, there is no limitation on the amount of personal funds that a candidate may make to his or her own campaign.

(j) This section shall apply to any contributions made to a candidate or committee, whether used by the candidate or committee to finance a current campaign, to pay deficits incurred in a prior campaign, or otherwise.

(Ord. No. 105-16. Passed 2-8-16, eff. 2-9-16)

# CITY OF COLUMBUS

## 107.02 - Campaign finance.

### (A) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Federal Political Committee" means a committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.
- (2) "Municipal ballot issue" means any ballot issue to be submitted solely to the electors of the City of Columbus.
- (3) "Municipal ballot issue committee" means a political action committee that is organized to propose, support, or oppose a municipal ballot issue.
- (4) "Municipal campaign committee" means a municipal candidate or one or more persons authorized by a municipal candidate under section 3517.081 of the Ohio Revised Code to receive contributions and make expenditures.
- (5) "Municipal candidate" means any individual who has filed, at any election, a petition or statement of write-in candidacy to be a candidate for nomination or election to office for mayor, city council, city auditor, or city attorney for the City of Columbus, and also includes any person who, at any time before or after an election, receives contributions or makes expenditures or other use of contributions, has given consent for another to receive contributions or make expenditures or other use of contributions, or appoints a campaign treasurer, for the purpose of bringing about the person's nomination or election to office for mayor, city council, city auditor, or city attorney for the City of Columbus.
- (6) "Municipal office holder" means an individual elected, appointed, or otherwise holding the office of mayor, city auditor, city attorney, or member of city council for the City of Columbus.
- (7) For the purpose of sections 107.02(E)(5) and 107.03 below, entities referred to as tax exempt under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code shall not include a "political party" as defined in section 3517.01(A) of the Ohio Revised Code.
- (8) The definitions set forth in sections 3517.01 and 3517.102 of the Ohio Revised Code shall apply to this chapter except to the extent modified in this chapter.
- (9) References to the city clerk and/or city attorney shall also include any designee(s) thereof.

### (B) Contribution Limits

- (1) Individual.
  - (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to any one municipal campaign committee in a calendar year.
  - (b) In the case of a contribution made by a partner of a partnership or an owner or a member of any other unincorporated business from any funds of the partnership or other unincorporated business, applicable provisions of section 3517.10 of the Ohio Revised Code apply regarding making and reporting such contribution.
- (2) Political Action Committee, Political Contributing Entity, Other Campaign Committees, and Federal Political Committee.

No political action committee, political contributing entity, campaign committee that is not a municipal campaign committee under division (A)(3) of this section, or federal political committee shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to any one municipal campaign committee in a calendar year.

(3) Municipal Campaign Committee.

- (a) No municipal campaign committee shall make a contribution or contributions aggregating more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to any one municipal campaign committee in a calendar year.
  - (b) A municipal campaign committee for a candidate who either was last a candidate for nomination or election to an office other than a City of Columbus office or who was undeclared as a municipal candidate, and that accepted one or more contributions in excess of the applicable limits or from a prohibited source under this chapter beginning the day following such election or beginning the day the committee was established, whichever is applicable, shall dispose of the excess amount of the contributions and prohibited contributions in accordance with section 107.05(A) not later than five days after the candidate declares his or her candidacy for a City of Columbus office.
  - (c) As used in division (3)(a) "contribution" does not include any in-kind contributions.
- (4) Prohibited Contributions from City Employees. No person shall solicit or accept a contribution from a City of Columbus employee to the municipal campaign committee of the individual who is the employee's appointing authority or will be the employee's appointing authority if elected to the office for which the committee is established. If such a contribution is received, the municipal campaign committee shall dispose of it in accordance with section 107.05(A).
- (5) Adjustments to contribution limits. All contribution limits established herein shall be adjusted forthwith by the city clerk in each odd-numbered year as provided for state contribution limits in section 3517.104 of the Ohio Revised Code. The adjusted contribution limits shall be made publicly available by electronic means and shall apply to that calendar year and the next calendar year.
- (C) Disclosure of Contributors and Employers of Contributors. Municipal campaign committees and municipal ballot issue committees shall include on the campaign finance reports required to be filed under section 3517.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and by this chapter, the name and address of each contributor regardless of the amount of the contribution and the name of contributor's employer and occupation. If a contributor is self-employed, the name of the contributor's business and the contributor's occupation shall be included on the campaign finance reports. If a contributor is not employed, this fact shall be noted by use of the phrase "not applicable."
- (D) Campaign Finance Reports. Municipal campaign committees and municipal ballot issue committees shall file complete, accurate, and itemized campaign finance reports required by this section and/or state law with the Franklin County Board of Elections in accordance with state law and with the city clerk by electronic means. Such campaign finance reports shall be filed no later than 4 o'clock p.m. In addition to the reports required by state law, municipal campaign committees and municipal ballot issue committees shall file the following reports with the City of Columbus on the following dates:
- (1) The sixtieth day before the primary, general, or special election in the case of municipal candidates or municipal ballot issues at the election to reflect contributions made or received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the sixty-eighth day before the election.
  - (2) The fifth day before the primary, general, or special election in the case of municipal candidates or ballot issues at the election to reflect contributions made or received and expenditures made from the close of business on the nineteenth day before the election through the close of business on the sixth day before the election.

- (3) The last business day of April of every year, except in a year in which the municipal campaign committee or ballot issue committee was required to file a report under division (D)(1) of this section prior to the primary election, to reflect the contributions made or received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of March of that year.
  - (4) The last business day of October of every year, except in a year in which the municipal campaign committee or municipal ballot issue committee was required to file a report under division (D)(1) of this section prior to the general election, to reflect the contributions made or received and expenditures made from the close of business on the last day reflected in the last previously filed statement, if any, to the close of business on the last day of September of that year.
  - (5) The last business day of July, except in a year in which the committee was required to file a post-primary election report under Ohio Revised Code section 3517.10(A)(2) and/or this section, to reflect contributions made or received and expenditures made since the last previously filed statement through the last day of June of that year.
  - (6) A municipal campaign committee or municipal ballot issue committee with cumulative contributions, expenditures, and debts equal to or exceeding one thousand (\$1000) dollars shall file a report for each reporting period as required by divisions (D)(1) through (D)(5) of this section and by Ohio Revised Code section 3517.10(A)(1). In lieu of filing a required report, a municipal campaign committee or municipal ballot issue committee that has cumulative contributions made or received, expenditures, and debts less than one thousand (\$1000) dollars may report to the city clerk in a manner or form prescribed by the clerk that it is exempt from filing a campaign finance report. All contributions, expenditures, and debts not reported by filing the clerk's exemption from filing form for cumulative amounts less than one thousand (\$1000) dollars shall be subsequently reported on the next post-election report or annual report as applicable and as required by state law and/or by this section.
- (E) Filing Requirements.
- (1) The campaign finance reports required to be filed by a municipal campaign committee or municipal ballot issue committee under Ohio Revised Code section 3517.10 and under division (D) of this section shall be filed with the Franklin County Board of Elections in accordance with instructions issued by the board, as well as with the city clerk by electronic means.
  - (2) Municipal campaign committees of candidates certified by the Franklin County Board of Elections are required to file all the campaign finance reports required by division (D)(1) and (2) of this section and that would be required by section 3517.10 of the Ohio Revised Code even when no primary election is held that year for the office for which the candidate was certified under section 41-3(b) of the Columbus City Charter.
  - (3) Municipal campaign committees and municipal ballot issue committees required to file campaign finance reports by this section shall file a designation of treasurer, as required by division (D) of section 3517.10 of the Ohio Revised Code, setting forth the full name and address of the campaign treasurer and also of each deputy treasurer, with the city clerk by electronic means. In the case of a ballot issue committee that intends to circulate a petition proposing a municipal ballot issue, the designation of treasurer form shall be filed before receiving donations or making expenditures required to be reported under division (E)(4) of this section.
  - (4) Municipal ballot issue committees shall itemize on reports required under this section all contributions made or received, expenditures, and debts incurred and outstanding at the close of a reporting period in

connection with preparing, printing, distributing, promoting, and circulating a petition seeking to place a municipal ballot issue on the ballot to the same extent and in the same manner as contributions, expenditures, and debts for the purpose of influencing the results of an election are required to be reported.

- (5) Municipal ballot issue committees that file a campaign finance report disclosing a contribution from a person whose aggregate monetary or in-kind contribution and to whom debts are owed equal or exceed one thousand (\$1000) dollars, and is either tax exempt under section 501(c) or 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, or registered as a partnership, closely-held company, or limited liability company, must also disclose all donors who provided a monetary or in-kind contribution or extended debt to that person equal to or exceeding an aggregated amount of two hundred (\$200) dollars with the expectation that the amount would be used for the purpose of influencing the results of a municipal ballot issue election.
- (F) Addendum, Correction, or Amendment. If a campaign finance report required under this section is found to be incomplete or inaccurate, the committee shall file an addendum, correction, or amendment as provided by Ohio Revised Code section 3517.11 and shall file a copy with the city clerk. The city clerk shall adopt procedures to govern these provisions, consistent with applicable general laws and this chapter.
- (G) Tax Credit for Campaign Contributions.
  - (1) A nonrefundable credit is allowed against a taxpayer's aggregate City of Columbus municipal tax liability for contributions of money made to the campaign committee of candidates for mayor, city attorney, city auditor, or member of city council.
  - (2) The amount of the credit for a taxable year shall equal the lesser of the combined total contributions made during the taxable year by each taxpayer filing a return for City of Columbus municipal taxes, or fifty dollars for an individual return or one hundred dollars for a joint return.

(Ord. No. 3386-2018, § 2, 1-14-2019; Ord. No. 1763-2019, § 1, 7-1-2019)

## CITY OF COLUMBUS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS 2021- 2023

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>DONORS</b>					
	INDIVIDUAL	POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	POLITICAL CONTRIBUTING ENTITY	OTHER CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES	FEDERAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE	MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	\$13,704.41* <i>per calendar year</i>	\$13,704.41** <i>per calendar year</i>				

Contribution limits adjusted in February of each odd-numbered year pursuant to Columbus City Code Section 107.02(B)(5) and O.R.C. §3517.104.

\* Contribution limit includes any in-kind contributions.

\*\* Contribution limit does not include in-kind contributions.