

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patrick Ford, Executive Director, Ethics Commission

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Government Audit and Oversight Committee

DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee has received the Ordinance request on September 2, 2025 which was then amended in the Government Audit and Oversight meeting of July 16, 2026.

File No. 250868 – Version 2

Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code - Campaign Public Financing Expenditure Ceilings and Reporting Requirements, and Campaign Contribution Limits

Ordinance amending the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to modify the public financing program for candidates for the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors by replacing the current process of continuous adjustments of individual expenditure ceilings to an approach in which the ceiling is removed for candidates within the race once certain spending reaches a specified amount, and adjusting reporting requirements; raising the contribution limit for contributions to candidates for local office from \$500 to \$1,000 and authorizing the Ethics Commission to adjust the contribution limit going forward for changes in the Consumer Price Index; allowing the Ethics Commission to designate the website to be used in campaign advertisement disclaimers; and increasing the rate at which public funding is made available to qualified candidates for Mayor or Board of Supervisors.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: monique.crayton@sfgov.org.

cc:
Michael Canning, Ethics Commission

[Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code - Campaign Public Financing Expenditure Ceilings and Reporting Requirements, and Campaign Contribution Limits]

Ordinance amending the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to modify the public financing program for candidates for the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors by replacing the current process of continuous adjustments of individual expenditure ceilings to an “one-and-done” approach in which the ceiling is removed for all candidates within the race once certain spending reaches a specified amount, and adjusting reporting requirements; raising the campaign contribution limit for contributions to candidates for local office from \$500 to \$1,000 and authorizing the Ethics Commission to adjust the contribution limit going forward for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and allowing the Ethics Commission to designate the website to be used in campaign advertisement disclaimers; and increasing the rate at which public funding is made available to qualified candidates for Mayor or Board of Supervisors.

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
Additions to Codes are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
Deletions to Codes are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font.
Board amendment deletions are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Article I, Chapter 1 of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 1.104, 1.114, 1.116, 1.140, 1.142, 1.144, 1.161, 1.162, and 1.170, adding Sections 1.129, 1.131, and 1.133, deleting Sections 1.128, 1.130, 1.134, 1.143, and 1.152, to read as follows:

1 **SEC. 1.104. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Whenever in this Chapter 1 the following words or phrases are used, they shall mean:

3 * * * *

4 ~~“Individual Expenditure Ceiling” shall mean the expenditure ceiling established for each~~
5 ~~individual candidate for Mayor or the Board of Supervisors whom the Ethics Commission has certified~~
6 ~~as eligible to receive public funds under this Chapter.~~

7 * * * *

8 ~~“Total Opposition Spending” shall mean the sum of any expenditures made or expenses~~
9 ~~incurred by any person or persons for the purpose of making independent expenditures, electioneering~~
10 ~~communications or member communications in opposition to a specific candidate for Mayor or the~~
11 ~~Board of Supervisors.~~

12 ~~“Total Supportive Funds” shall mean the sum of all contributions received by a candidate~~
13 ~~committee supporting a candidate for Mayor or the Board of Supervisors, other than any funds that~~
14 ~~exceed the candidate’s Individual Expenditure Ceiling, plus the expenditures made or expenses~~
15 ~~incurred by any person or persons for the purpose of making independent expenditures, electioneering~~
16 ~~communications or member communications in support of that same candidate.~~

17 * * * *

18
19 **SEC. 1.114. CONTRIBUTIONS – LIMITS AND PROHIBITIONS.**

20 (a) LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES. No person other than a
21 candidate shall make, and no campaign treasurer for a candidate committee shall solicit or
22 accept, any contribution which will cause the total amount contributed by such person to such
23 candidate committee in an election to exceed ~~\$500~~\$1,000. The Ethics Commission is authorized
24 to adjust this figure to reflect changes in the California Consumer Price Index, provided that such
25 adjustments shall be rounded off down to the nearest \$100.

1 * * * *

2 (d) PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OFFICIAL ACTION. No candidate
3 may, directly or by means of an agent, give, offer, promise to give, withhold, or offer or
4 promise to withhold ~~his or her~~ their vote or influence, or promise to take or refrain from taking
5 official action with respect to any proposed or pending matter in consideration of, or upon
6 condition that, any other person make or refrain from making a contribution.

7 * * * *

8
9 **SEC. 1.116. LIMITS ON LOANS TO CANDIDATES.**

10 (a) A candidate's loan of personal funds to the candidate's campaign may not exceed
11 at any time more than:

12 (1) ~~\$15,000.00~~ ~~27,000~~ 15,000 for a candidate for the Board of Supervisors,
13 Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District or the Governing Board of the
14 San Francisco Community College District,

15 (2) ~~\$120,000.00~~ ~~213,000~~ 120,000 for a candidate for Mayor, or

16 (3) ~~\$35,000.00~~ ~~62,000~~ 35,000 for a candidate for Assessor or Public Defender,
17 City Attorney, Treasurer, District Attorney or Sheriff.

18 (b) A candidate may not charge interest on any loan the candidate has made to the
19 candidate's campaign.

20 (c) In addition to any other penalty, loans made by a candidate to the candidate's
21 campaign in excess of the amounts in Subsection (a) shall be deemed a contribution to the
22 campaign and may not be repaid to the candidate.

23 (d) Whenever the Ethics Commission adjusts the ~~voluntary~~ expenditure ceilings to
24 reflect changes in the California Consumer Price Index, as authorized under Section ~~1.130~~
25 1.131, the Commission is authorized to adjust the loan amounts in this Section 1.116 to reflect

1 changes in the Consumer Price Index, provided that such adjustments shall be rounded off to the
2 nearest \$1,000.

3
4 **~~SEC. 1.128. ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE~~**
5 **~~CEILINGS.~~**

6 ~~(a) Candidates for Assessor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff,~~
7 ~~Treasurer, the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District or the Governing~~
8 ~~Board of the San Francisco Community College District may accept the applicable voluntary~~
9 ~~expenditure ceiling. Candidates for the Board of Supervisors or Mayor may not accept a voluntary~~
10 ~~expenditure ceiling.~~

11 ~~(b) To accept the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, a candidate must file a statement~~
12 ~~with the Ethics Commission accepting the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling. The candidate~~
13 ~~shall file this statement no later than the deadline for filing nomination papers with the Department of~~
14 ~~Elections. A candidate may not withdraw the statement accepting the voluntary expenditure ceiling~~
15 ~~after filing the statement. A candidate may not file the statement accepting the applicable voluntary~~
16 ~~expenditure ceiling if the Ethics Commission has lifted the voluntary expenditure ceiling under Section~~
17 ~~1.134 of this Chapter.~~

18 ~~(c) The Ethics Commission shall maintain, on its website, a list of the candidates who have~~
19 ~~accepted the voluntary expenditure ceiling. If the Ethics Commission has lifted a voluntary expenditure~~
20 ~~ceiling for a particular race under Section 1.134 of this Chapter, the Ethics Commission shall instead~~
21 ~~maintain a list of the candidates who have accepted, but are no longer subject to the voluntary~~
22 ~~expenditure ceiling in that race.~~

23 ~~(d) A candidate who has accepted the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling and makes~~
24 ~~qualified campaign expenditures in excess of the voluntary expenditure ceiling, at a time when the~~
25 ~~Ethics Commission has not lifted the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, is subject to the~~

1 ~~penalties in Section 1.170 for violation of this Chapter.~~

2
3 **SEC. 1.129. EXPENDITURE CEILINGS.**

4 **(a) Required Expenditure Ceilings for Public Financing.**

5 (1) To be eligible to receive public financing of campaign expenses under this Chapter,
6 candidates for the Board of Supervisors or Mayor must agree that their candidate committee will not
7 make qualified campaign expenditures that total more than the applicable expenditure ceiling specified
8 in Section 1.131, unless the expenditure ceiling has been lifted as specified in Section 1.133.

9 (2) A candidate shall indicate their tentative acceptance of the expenditure ceiling by
10 filing their statement of participation with the Ethics Commission as required by Section 1.140.

11 (3) The expenditure ceiling shall apply to a candidate if the Executive Director has
12 certified the candidate is eligible to receive public financing under Section 1.142.

13 (4) The Ethics Commission shall maintain, on its website, a list of the candidates who
14 are subject to the expenditure ceiling. If the Ethics Commission has lifted ~~the~~ an expenditure ceiling
15 for ~~in~~ a particular race under Section 1.133, the Ethics Commission shall ~~instead maintain a update~~
16 ~~the list of the~~ to identify candidates who have accepted public financing, but are no longer subject to
17 the expenditure ceiling in that race.

18 (5) A candidate who is subject to the expenditure ceiling and makes qualified campaign
19 expenditures in excess of the applicable expenditure ceiling, at a time when the Ethics Commission has
20 not lifted the expenditure ceiling, is subject to the penalties in Section 1.170 for violation of this
21 Chapter.

22 **(b) Voluntary Expenditure Ceilings.**

23 (1) Candidates for Assessor-Recorder, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public
24 Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer, the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, or
25 the Governing Board of the San Francisco Community College District may accept the applicable

1 voluntary expenditure ceiling specified in Section 1.131, unless the candidate's expenditure ceiling
2 has been lifted as specified in Section 1.133. Candidates for the Board of Supervisors or Mayor may
3 not accept a voluntary expenditure ceiling.

4 (2) To accept the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, a candidate must file a
5 statement with the Ethics Commission accepting the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling. The
6 candidate shall file this statement no later than the deadline for filing nomination papers with the
7 Department of Elections. A candidate may not withdraw the statement accepting the voluntary
8 expenditure ceiling after filing the statement. A candidate may not file the statement accepting the
9 applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling if the Ethics Commission has lifted the candidate's voluntary
10 expenditure ceiling under Section 1.133.

11 (3) The Ethics Commission shall maintain, on its website, a list of the candidates who
12 have accepted the voluntary expenditure ceiling. If the Ethics Commission has lifted a voluntary
13 expenditure ceiling ~~for in~~ a particular race under Section 1.133-, the Ethics Commission shall update
14 the ~~instead maintain a list to identify~~ candidates who have accepted-, but are no longer subject to, the
15 voluntary expenditure ceiling in that race.

16 (4) A candidate who has accepted the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling and
17 makes qualified campaign expenditures in excess of the voluntary expenditure ceiling, at a time when
18 the Ethics Commission has not lifted the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, is subject to the
19 penalties in Section 1.170 for violation of this Chapter.

20
21 **SEC. 1.130. AMOUNT OF VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE CEILINGS.**

22 (a) ~~Any candidate for Assessor, Public Defender, City Attorney, District Attorney, Treasurer,~~
23 ~~or Sheriff who agrees to accept voluntary expenditure ceilings shall not make total qualified campaign~~
24 ~~expenditures exceeding \$243,000, unless the Ethics Commission has lifted the voluntary expenditure~~
25 ~~ceiling pursuant to Section 1.134 of this Chapter.~~

1 ~~(b) Any candidate for the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District or~~
2 ~~the Governing Board of the San Francisco Community College District who agrees to accept voluntary~~
3 ~~expenditure ceilings shall not make total qualified campaign expenditures exceeding \$104,000, unless~~
4 ~~the Ethics Commission has lifted the voluntary expenditure ceiling pursuant to Section 1.134 of this~~
5 ~~Chapter.~~

6 ~~(c) The Ethics Commission is authorized to adjust annually by regulation the voluntary~~
7 ~~expenditure ceilings imposed by this Section to reflect the change in the California Consumer Price~~
8 ~~Index for that year, provided that such adjustments shall be rounded off to the nearest \$1,000.~~

9
10 **SEC. 1.131. AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE CEILINGS.**

11 (a) Any candidate for the Board of Supervisors subject to an expenditure ceiling under Section
12 1.129(a) shall not make total qualified campaign expenditures exceeding \$412,000, unless the Ethics
13 Commission has lifted the candidate's expenditure ceiling pursuant to Section 1.133.

14 (b) Any candidate for Mayor subject to an expenditure ceiling under Section 1.129(a) shall not
15 make total qualified campaign expenditures exceeding \$2,005,000, unless the Ethics Commission has
16 lifted the candidate's expenditure ceiling pursuant to Section 1.133.

17 (c) Any candidate for Assessor-Recorder, Public Defender, City Attorney, District Attorney,
18 Treasurer, or Sheriff who agrees to accept a voluntary expenditure ceiling under Section 1.129(b) shall
19 not make total qualified campaign expenditures exceeding \$374,000, unless the Ethics Commission has
20 lifted the candidate's voluntary expenditure ceiling pursuant to Section 1.133.

21 (d) Any candidate for the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District or
22 the Governing Board of the San Francisco Community College District who agrees to accept a
23 voluntary expenditure ceiling under Section 1.129(b) shall not make total qualified campaign
24 expenditures exceeding \$160,000, unless the Ethics Commission has lifted the candidate's voluntary
25 expenditure ceiling pursuant to Section 1.133.

1 (e) The Ethics Commission is authorized to adjust the expenditure ceilings imposed by this
2 Section 1.131 to reflect changes in the California Consumer Price Index, provided that such
3 adjustments shall be rounded off to the nearest \$1,000.

4
5 **SEC. 1.133. LIFTING OF EXPENDITURE CEILINGS AND SUPPLEMENTAL**
6 **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

7 **(a) Lifting of Expenditure Ceilings.**

8 (1) An expenditure ceiling shall no longer be binding on a candidate:

9 (A) if a candidate seeking election to the same office who is not subject to an
10 expenditure ceiling under Section 1.129(a), or who has not accepted a voluntary expenditure ceiling
11 under Section 1.129(b), receives contributions or makes qualified campaign expenditures in excess of
12 75% of the applicable expenditure ceiling;

13 (B) if a candidate seeking election to the same office, who is subject to the
14 expenditure ceiling, ~~or~~ makes qualified campaign expenditures in excess of 100% of the applicable
15 expenditure ceiling; or

16 (C) if a person or persons makes expenditures or payments, or incurs expenses
17 for the purpose of making independent expenditures, electioneering communications, or member
18 communications, and those expenditures, payments, ~~and~~ or expenses clearly identify a candidate
19 seeking election to the same City elective office, either oppose the candidate's election to the City
20 elective office or support the election of an opponent of the candidate to the same City
21 elective office, and total more than ~~75~~50% of the applicable expenditure ceiling.

22 **(b) Additional Reporting Requirements.**

23 (1) In addition to the campaign disclosure requirements imposed by the California
24 Political Reform Act and other provisions of this Chapter:

25 (A) Each candidate committee supporting a candidate in a race with an active

1 expenditure ceiling that receives contributions or makes qualified campaign expenditures that total
2 more than 75% of the applicable expenditure ceiling shall, within 24 hours of exceeding 75% of the
3 applicable expenditure ceiling, file a statement with the Ethics Commission, ~~on forms in a format to~~
4 be provided by the Ethics Commission, stating that fact and any additional information required by the
5 Ethics Commission.

6 (B) Each candidate committee supporting a candidate for the Board of
7 Supervisors shall file a statement with the Ethics Commission indicating when the committee has
8 received contributions to be deposited into its Campaign Contribution Trust Account or made qualified
9 campaign expenditures that equal or exceed the amount stated in Section 1.140(b)(3) within 24 hours
10 of reaching or exceeding that amount.

11 (C) Each candidate committee supporting a candidate for Mayor shall file a
12 statement with the Ethics Commission indicating when the candidate committee has received
13 contributions to be deposited into its Campaign Contribution Trust Account or made qualified
14 campaign expenditures, that equal or exceed the amount stated in Section 1.140(c)(3) within 24 hours
15 of reaching or exceeding that amount.

16 (2) The Executive Director shall post the information disclosed on statements required
17 by this subsection on the website of the Ethics Commission within two business days of the statement's
18 filing.

19 **(c) Process for Lifting Expenditure Ceilings.**

20 (1) The Executive Director shall promptly review statements filed pursuant to state and
21 local law, including the statement required by subsection (b)(1)(A) of this Section 1.133, and any other
22 materials the Executive Director deems relevant, to determine if an expenditure ceiling must be lifted
23 pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A).

24 (2) The Executive Director shall promptly review statements filed pursuant to state and
25 local law, and any other materials the Executive Director deems relevant, to determine if an

1 expenditure ceiling must be lifted pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(B) of this Section 1.133.

2 (3) The Executive Director shall promptly review statements filed pursuant to state and
3 local law, including California Government Code section 84204 and Sections 1.161, 1.162, and 1.163,
4 and any other materials the Executive Director deems relevant, to determine whether a communication
5 supports or opposes one or more candidates in a race and if an expenditure ceiling must be lifted
6 pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(C) of this Section 1.133.

7 The Executive Director shall use the following factors to determine whether the communication
8 supports or opposes one or more candidates include the following:

9 (A) whether the communication clearly identifies one or more candidates;

10 (B) the timing of the communication;

11 (C) the voters targeted by the communication;

12 (D) whether the communication identifies any candidate's position on a public
13 policy issue and urges the reader or viewer to take action, including calling the candidate to support or
14 oppose the candidate's position;

15 (E) whether the position of one or more candidates on a public policy issue has
16 been raised as distinguishing these candidates from others in the campaign, either in the
17 communication itself or in other public communications;

18 (F) whether the communication is part of an ongoing series of substantially
19 similar advocacy communications by the organization on the same issue; and

20 (G) any other factors the Executive Director deems relevant.

21 (4) Within one business day of determining that an expenditure ceiling must be lifted
22 pursuant to this Section 1.133, the Executive Director shall inform every candidate for that office that
23 the Ethics Commission has lifted the applicable expenditure ceiling. The Executive Director shall also
24 post a notice on the Ethics Commission's website. If an objection made pursuant to subsection (c)(5) of
25 this Section 1.133 delays or prevents a determination from becoming final, the Executive Director shall

1 send subsequent notices regarding the objection and final determination.

2 (5) Objections.

3 (A) Within one business day of the date that the Executive Director makes a
4 determination under this subsection (c), any candidate in the race may object to the Executive
5 Director's determination. The Executive Director shall respond to any objection within one business
6 day of receiving the objection.

7 (B) Within one business day of the Executive Director's response, the candidate
8 who objected to the determination may submit to the Executive Director a request that the Ethics
9 Commission review the Executive Director's determination. Within one business day of receiving the
10 request, the Executive Director shall notify the Chair of the Commission of the request.

11 If, within one business day of the Executive Director's notice, the Chair informs
12 the Executive Director that they are requesting the Commission review the determination, the Executive
13 Director shall schedule a meeting of the Commission on a date that occurs within two weeks of the
14 Chair's request. If the Commission overrules the Executive Director's determination, the Commission
15 shall make a final determination based on the factors set forth above.

16 (C) The Executive Director's determination shall become final if:

- 17 (i) no candidate objects to the Executive Director's determination;
18 (ii) an objection is made, and the candidate does not request a review of
19 the Executive Director's determination by the Commission;
20 (iii) a request is made, and the Chair does not request the Commission
21 review the determination; or
22 (iv) the Commission does not overrule the Executive Director's
23 determination.

24
25 **~~SEC. 1.134. LIFTING OF VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE CEILINGS; SUPPLEMENTAL~~**

**~~REPORTING IN ELECTIONS FOR ASSESSOR, PUBLIC DEFENDER, CITY ATTORNEY,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, TREASURER, SHERIFF, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SAN
FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN
FRANCISCO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT.~~**

~~This Section shall apply only if at least one candidate for the City elective office has accepted the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, and the Ethics Commission has not lifted that voluntary expenditure ceiling. This Section applies only to candidates for Assessor, Public Defender, City Attorney, District Attorney, Treasurer, Sheriff, the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, or the Governing Board of the San Francisco Community College District.~~

~~(a) The voluntary expenditure ceiling shall no longer be binding on a candidate:~~

~~(1) If a candidate seeking election to the same City elective office, who has declined to accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling, receives contributions or makes qualified campaign expenditures in excess of 100 percent of the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling;~~

~~(2) If a person or persons make expenditures or payments, or incur expenses for the purpose of making independent expenditures, electioneering communications or member communications that total more than 100 percent of the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, and those expenditures or communications clearly identify a candidate seeking election to the same City elective office, or~~

~~(3) If a candidate seeking election to the same City elective office, who has accepted the voluntary expenditure ceiling, makes qualified campaign expenditures in excess of 100 percent of the voluntary expenditure ceiling.~~

~~(b) Any candidate committee that receives contributions, makes qualified campaign expenditures, incurs expenses or has funds in its Campaign Contribution Trust Account that total more than 100 percent of the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling shall, within 24 hours of exceeding 100 percent of the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling, file a statement with the Ethics~~

1 ~~Commission, on forms to be provided by the Ethics Commission, stating that fact and any additional~~
2 ~~information required by the Ethics Commission.~~

3 ~~(c) The Executive Director shall promptly review statements filed pursuant to state and local~~
4 ~~law, including California Government Code section 84204 and Sections 1.161, 1.162, and 1.163 of this~~
5 ~~Chapter, to determine whether a communication supports or opposes one or more candidates.~~

6 ~~(d) Within one business day after determining that the threshold listed in subsection (a) has~~
7 ~~been met with respect to an office appearing on the ballot, the Executive Director shall inform every~~
8 ~~candidate for that office that the Ethics Commission has lifted the applicable voluntary expenditure~~
9 ~~ceiling. The Executive Director shall also post a notice on the Ethics Commission's website and send~~
10 ~~written notice by e-mail to any other person who has requested such notice.~~

12 **SEC. 1.140. ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE PUBLIC FINANCING.**

13 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CANDIDATES. To be eligible to receive public
14 financing of campaign expenses under this Chapter, a candidate must:

15 (1) Have filed a statement indicating that ~~he or she intends~~ they intend to
16 participate in the public financing program under Section 1.142 ~~of this Chapter.~~

17 (2) Agree to the following conditions:

18 (A) The candidate bears the burden of providing that each contribution
19 the candidate relies upon to establish eligibility is a qualifying contribution;

20 (B) The candidate bears the burden of proving that expenditures made
21 with public funds provided under this Chapter comply with Section 1.148 ~~of this Chapter;~~

22 (C) The candidate will not make any payments to a contractor or vendor
23 in return for the contractor or vendor making a campaign contribution to the candidate or
24 make more than a total of 50 payments, other than the return of a contribution, to contractors
25 or vendor that have made contributions to the candidate;

1 (D) Notwithstanding Sections 1.114 and 1.116, the candidate shall not
2 loan or donate, in total, more than \$5,000 of ~~his or her~~ their own money to the campaign;

3 (E) The candidate shall not accept any loans to ~~his or her~~ their campaign
4 with the exception of a candidate's loan to ~~his or her~~ their own campaign as permitted by this
5 Section; and

6 (F) The candidate shall agree to participate in at least three debates with
7 the candidate's opponents.

8 (3) Have paid any outstanding late fines or penalties, owed to the City by the
9 candidate or any of the candidate's previous campaign committees, which were imposed for
10 violations of this Code or the campaign finance provisions of the California Political Reform
11 Act (Government Code Sections 84100-85704), provided that the Ethics Commission had
12 notified the candidate of such fines or penalties by the time of certification.

13 (4) Have filed any outstanding forms, owed to the City by the candidate or any
14 of the candidate's previous campaign committees, which were required to be filed pursuant to
15 this Code or the campaign finance provisions of the Political Reform Act (Government Code
16 Sections 84100-85704), provided that the Ethics Commission had notified the candidate of
17 such outstanding forms by the time of certification.

18 (5) Have no finding by a court or by the Ethics Commission after a hearing on
19 the merits, within the prior five years, that the candidate knowingly, willfully, or intentionally
20 violated any Section of this Code or the campaign finance provisions of this California Political
21 Reform Act (Government Code Sections 84100-85704). For purposes of this Section, a plea
22 of *nolo contendere* constitutes a finding by a court of a willful violation.

23 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF
24 SUPERVISORS. To be eligible to receive public financing of campaign expenses under this
25 Chapter, a candidate for the Board of Supervisors must:

1 (1) Be seeking election to the Board of Supervisors and be eligible to hold the
2 office sought;

3 (2) Have a candidate committee that has received at least \$10,000 in qualifying
4 contributions from at least 100 contributors by the 70th day before the election; or, if the
5 candidate is an incumbent member of the Board of Supervisors, have a candidate committee
6 that has received at least \$15,000 in qualifying contributions from at least 150 contributors by
7 the 70th day before the election;

8 (3) Be opposed by another candidate who has either established eligibility to
9 receive public financing, or whose candidate committee has received contributions or made
10 expenditures which in the aggregate equal or exceed \$10,000; and

11 (4) Agree that ~~his or her~~ their candidate committee will not make qualified
12 campaign expenditures that total more than the ~~candidate's Individual Expenditure Ceiling of~~
13 ~~\$350,000, or as adjusted under Section 1.143 of this Chapter~~ applicable expenditure ceiling specified
14 in Section 1.131, unless the candidate's expenditure ceiling has been lifted as specified in Section
15 1.133.

16 (c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR. To be eligible
17 to receive public financing of campaign expenses under this Chapter, a candidate for Mayor
18 must:

19 (1) Be seeking election to the office of Mayor and be eligible to hold the office
20 sought;

21 (2) Have a candidate committee that has received at least \$50,000 in qualifying
22 contributions from at least 500 contributors by the 70th day before the election; or, if the
23 candidate is the incumbent Mayor, have a candidate committee that has received at least
24 \$75,000 in qualifying contributions from at least 750 contributors by the 70th day before the
25 election;

1 (3) Be opposed by another candidate who has either established eligibility to
2 receive public financing, or whose candidate committee has received contributions or made
3 expenditures that in the aggregate equal or exceed \$50,000; and

4 (4) Agree that ~~his or her~~ their candidate committee will not make qualified
5 campaign expenditures that total more than the ~~candidate's Individual Expenditure Ceiling of~~
6 ~~\$1,700,000, or as adjusted under Section 1.143 of this Chapter~~ applicable expenditure ceiling specified
7 in Section 1.131, unless the candidate's expenditure ceiling has been lifted as specified in Section
8 1.133.

9 (d) ADJUSTMENT OF EXPENDITURE LIMITS AND THRESHOLDS. The Ethics
10 Commission is authorized to adjust:

11 ~~(1) The figures in Subsections (b)(4) and (c)(4) to reflect changes in the California~~
12 ~~Consumer Price Index, provided that such adjustments shall be rounded off to the nearest \$1,000 for~~
13 ~~candidates for the Board of Supervisors and the nearest \$5,000 for candidates for Mayor;~~

14 ~~(2)~~ The figure in Subsection (a)(2)(D) of this Section 1.140 to reflect changes in
15 the California Consumer Price Index, provided that such adjustments shall be rounded off to
16 the nearest \$1,000;

17 ~~(3)~~ The figures in Subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this Section 1.140 to reflect
18 changes in the California Consumer Price Index, provided that such adjustments shall be
19 rounded off to the nearest \$500;

20 ~~(4)~~ The figures in Subsections (c)(2) and (c)(3) of this Section 1.140 to reflect
21 changes in the California Consumer Price Index, provided that such adjustments shall be
22 rounded off to the nearest \$5,000; and

23 ~~(5)~~ The maximum amount of a contribution that constitutes a qualifying
24 contribution pursuant to Section 1.104 to reflect changes in the California Consumer Price
25 Index, provided that such adjustments shall be rounded off to the nearest \$10.

1 **SEC. 1.142. PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY; CERTIFICATION BY**
2 **THE ETHICS COMMISSION.**

3 * * * *

4 (d) DETERMINATION OF OPPOSITION. To determine whether a candidate for the
5 Board of Supervisors is opposed as required under Section 1.140(b)(3) ~~of this Chapter~~ or a
6 candidate for Mayor is opposed as required under Section 1.140(c)(3) ~~of this Chapter~~, the
7 Executive Director shall review the material filed pursuant to Section ~~1.152~~ 1.133 ~~of this~~
8 ~~Chapter~~, and may review any other material.

9 (e) CERTIFICATION. If the Executive Director determines that a candidate for Mayor
10 or the Board of Supervisors has satisfied the requirements of Section 1.140, the Executive
11 Director shall notify the candidate and certify to the Controller that the candidate is eligible to
12 receive public financing under this Chapter ~~1~~. The Executive Director shall not certify that a
13 candidate is eligible to receive public financing if the candidate's declaration or supporting
14 material is incomplete or otherwise inadequate to establish eligibility. The Executive Director
15 shall determine whether to certify a candidate no later than 30 days after the date the
16 candidate submits ~~his or her~~ their declaration and supporting material, provided that the
17 Executive Director shall make all determinations regarding whether to certify a candidate no
18 later than the 55th day before the election.

19 * * * *

20
21 ~~**SEC. 1.143. ADJUSTING INDIVIDUAL EXPENDITURE CEILINGS.**~~

22 ~~This Section 1.143 shall apply only if the Ethics Commission has certified that at least one~~
23 ~~candidate for Mayor or the Board of Supervisors is eligible to receive public funds under this Chapter~~
24 ~~1.~~

25 ~~(a) The Executive Director shall adjust the Individual Expenditure Ceiling of a candidate for~~

1 ~~Mayor by \$250,000 when the sum of the Total Opposition Spending against that candidate and the~~
2 ~~highest level of the Total Supportive Funds of any other candidate for Mayor is greater than~~
3 ~~\$1,700,000 by any amount. Thereafter, the Executive Director shall further adjust a candidate's~~
4 ~~Individual Expenditure Ceiling in increments of \$250,000, whenever the sum of the Total Opposition~~
5 ~~Spending against that candidate and the highest level of the Total Supportive Funds of any other~~
6 ~~candidate for Mayor is greater than the candidate's current Individual Expenditure Ceiling by any~~
7 ~~amount.~~

8 ~~(b) The Executive Director shall adjust the Individual Expenditure Ceiling of a candidate for~~
9 ~~the Board of Supervisors by \$50,000 when the sum of the Total Opposition Spending against that~~
10 ~~candidate and the highest level of the Total Supportive Funds of any other candidate for the same office~~
11 ~~on the Board of Supervisors is greater than \$350,000 by any amount. Thereafter, the Executive~~
12 ~~Director shall further adjust a candidate's Individual Expenditure Ceiling in increments of \$50,000,~~
13 ~~whenever the sum of the Total Opposition Spending against that candidate and the highest level of the~~
14 ~~Total Supportive Funds of any other candidate for the same office is greater than the candidate's~~
15 ~~current Individual Expenditure Ceiling by any amount.~~

16 ~~(c) The Executive Director shall promptly review statements filed pursuant to state and local~~
17 ~~law, including Government Code section 84204 and Sections 1.161, 1.162, and 1.163 of this Chapter 1,~~
18 ~~to determine whether a communication supports or opposes one or more candidates.~~

19 ~~Factors the Executive Director shall use to determine whether the communication supports or~~
20 ~~opposes one or more candidates include the following:~~

- 21 ~~(1) whether the communication clearly identifies one or more candidates;~~
- 22 ~~(2) the timing of the communication;~~
- 23 ~~(3) the voters targeted by the communication;~~
- 24 ~~(4) whether the communication identifies any candidate's position on a public policy~~
25 ~~issue and urges the reader or viewer to take action, including calling the candidate to support or~~

1 ~~oppose the candidate's position;~~

2 ~~(5) whether the position of one or more candidates on a public policy issue has been~~
3 ~~raised as distinguishing these candidates from others in the campaign, either in the communication~~
4 ~~itself or in other public communications;~~

5 ~~(6) whether the communication is part of an ongoing series of substantially similar~~
6 ~~advocacy communications by the organization on the same issue; and~~

7 ~~(7) any other factors the Executive Director deems relevant.~~

8 ~~(d) Within one business day of the date that the Executive Director makes a determination~~
9 ~~under subsection (c), either the candidate(s) identified in the communication or any candidate seeking~~
10 ~~the same City elective office as the candidate identified in the communication may object to the~~
11 ~~Executive Director's determination. The Executive Director shall respond to any objection within one~~
12 ~~business day of receiving the objection.~~

13 ~~(e) Within one business day of the Executive Director's response, either the candidate(s)~~
14 ~~identified in the communication or any candidate seeking the same City elective office as the candidate~~
15 ~~identified in the communication may submit to the Executive Director a request that the Ethics~~
16 ~~Commission review the Executive Director's determination. Within one business day of receiving the~~
17 ~~request, the Executive Director shall notify each Commissioner of the candidate's request.~~

18 ~~If within one business day of the Executive Director's notice, two or more members of the~~
19 ~~Commission inform the Executive Director that they would like to review the determination, the~~
20 ~~Executive Director shall schedule a meeting of the Commission on a date that occurs within one week~~
21 ~~of the Commissioners' requests. If three members of the Commission vote to overrule the Executive~~
22 ~~Director's determination, the Commission shall make a final determination based on the factors set~~
23 ~~forth above.~~

24 ~~(f) If no candidate objects to the Executive Director's determination, if no candidate requests~~
25 ~~review by the Commission of the Executive Director's determination, if a request is made and two or~~

1 ~~more members of the Commission do not request to review the determination, or within one week of~~
2 ~~two members of the Commission requesting to review the Executive Director's determination, at least~~
3 ~~three members of the Commission do not vote to overrule the Executive Director's determination, the~~
4 ~~Executive Director's determination shall become final.~~

5 ~~The Executive Director shall determine whether to adjust the Individual Expenditure Ceilings of~~
6 ~~each candidate for Mayor or the Board of Supervisors pursuant to either subsection (a) or (b) within~~
7 ~~one business day of a final determination.~~

8 9 **SEC. 1.144. DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.**

10 (a) PAYMENT BY CONTROLLER. Upon certifying that a candidate is eligible to
11 receive public financing under this Chapter, the Executive Director shall forward the
12 certification to the Controller, and the Controller shall disburse payments to the candidate from
13 the Election Campaign Fund in accordance with the certification and this Section.

14 (b) TIME OF PAYMENTS. The Controller shall not make any payments under this
15 Chapter to any candidate more than 142 days before the date of the election. Payments from
16 the Controller shall be disbursed to eligible candidates within two business days of the
17 Controller receiving notification from the Ethics Commission regarding the amount of the
18 disbursement, except that within fifteen calendar days before the election, such payments
19 shall be made within one business day.

20 (c) PAYMENTS FOR ELECTION EXPENSES TO CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR.
21 Candidates for Mayor certified as eligible to receive public financing for their election
22 campaigns will have access to funds from the Election Campaign Fund on a first-come, first-
23 served basis according to the following formula:

24 (1) Upon qualification the candidate shall receive a one-time payment of
25 ~~\$300,000~~ \$400,000 from the Election Campaign Fund.

1 (2) After the initial payment under subsection (c)(1), for the first ~~\$150,000~~
2 \$100,000 in matching contributions raised by the candidate, the candidate shall receive ~~six~~
3 eight dollars from the Election Campaign Fund for each dollar raised. If the candidate is the
4 incumbent Mayor, after the initial payment under subsection (c)(1), for the first ~~\$147,500~~
5 \$98,125 in matching contributions raised by the candidate, the candidate shall receive ~~six~~
6 eight dollars from the Election Campaign Fund for each dollar raised.

7 (3) The maximum amount of public funds a non-incumbent mayoral candidate
8 may receive is \$1,200,000. The maximum amount of public funds an incumbent mayoral
9 candidate may receive is \$1,185,000.

10 (d) PAYMENTS FOR ELECTION EXPENSES TO CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD
11 OF SUPERVISORS. Candidates for the Board of Supervisors certified as eligible to receive
12 public financing for their election campaigns will have access to funds from the Election
13 Campaign Fund on a first-come, first-served basis according to the following formula:

14 (1) Upon qualification the candidate shall receive a one-time payment of ~~\$60,000~~
15 \$80,000 from the Election Campaign Fund.

16 (2) After the initial payment under subsection (d)(1), for the first ~~\$32,500~~ \$21,875 in
17 matching contributions raised by the candidate, the candidate shall receive ~~six~~ eight dollars
18 from the Election Campaign Fund for each dollar raised. If the candidate is an incumbent
19 member of the Board of Supervisors after the initial payment under subsection (d)(1), for the
20 first ~~\$32,000~~ \$21,500 in matching contributions raised by the candidate, the candidate shall
21 receive ~~six~~ eight dollars from the Election Campaign Fund for each dollar raised.

22 (3) The maximum amount of public funds a non-incumbent candidate for the Board of
23 Supervisors may receive is \$255,000. The maximum amount of public funds an incumbent
24 candidate for the Board of Supervisors may receive is \$252,000.

25 (e) SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS FOR PUBLIC FUNDS. The Ethics Commission shall

1 determine the information needed to submit a claim for payment of public funds. The
2 Executive Director shall certify each request for payment of public funds within four business
3 days of the request, except that within 14 calendar days before the election, when the
4 certification of a request for public funds shall be made within two business days of the
5 request. No candidate may submit a claim for public funds if the candidate has any such
6 claims pending with the Ethics Commission. For candidates for Mayor, any submission of a
7 claim for public funds must include a minimum of \$5,000 of matching contributions; provided
8 that in the 14 calendar days preceding an election, a claim must include a minimum of \$1,000
9 of matching contributions. For candidates for the Board of Supervisors, any submission of a
10 claim for public funds must include a minimum of \$1,000 of matching contributions; provided
11 that in the 14 calendar days preceding an election, a claim must include a minimum of \$200 of
12 matching contributions. All claims for public funds must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m.
13 on the 30th day following the date of the election.

14 (f) DEPOSIT IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION TRUST ACCOUNT. A candidate must
15 deposit all payments received from the Election Campaign Fund in ~~his or her~~ their candidate
16 committee's Campaign Contribution Trust Account.

17
18
19 ***~~SEC. 1.152. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTING IN ELECTIONS FOR BOARD OF~~***
20 ***~~SUPERVISORS AND MAYOR.~~***

21 ***~~(a) ELECTIONS FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.~~***

22 ***~~(1) In addition to the campaign disclosure requirements imposed by the California~~***
23 ***~~Political Reform Act and other provisions of this Chapter, each candidate committee supporting a~~***
24 ***~~candidate for the Board of Supervisors shall file a statement with the Ethics Commission indicating~~***
25 ***~~when the committee has received contributions to be deposited into its Campaign Contribution Trust~~***

1 ~~Account or made expenditures that equal or exceed \$10,000 within 24 hours of reaching or exceeding~~
2 ~~that amount.~~

3 ~~(2) In addition to the supplemental report in subsection (a)(1) of this Section, each~~
4 ~~candidate committee supporting a candidate for the Board of Supervisors shall file a statement with the~~
5 ~~Ethics Commission disclosing when the committee has received contributions to be deposited into its~~
6 ~~Campaign Contribution Trust Account or made expenditures that in the aggregate equal or exceed~~
7 ~~\$100,000. The candidate committee shall file this report within 24 hours of reaching or exceeding the~~
8 ~~threshold. Thereafter, the candidate committee shall file an additional supplemental report within 24~~
9 ~~hours of every time the candidate committee receives additional contributions to be deposited into its~~
10 ~~Campaign Contribution Trust Account or makes additional expenditures that in the aggregate equal or~~
11 ~~exceed \$10,000.~~

12 ~~(3) The Executive Director shall post the information disclosed on statements required~~
13 ~~by this subsection on the website of the Ethics Commission within two business days of the statement's~~
14 ~~filing.~~

15 ~~(b) ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR.~~

16 ~~(1) In addition to the campaign disclosure requirements imposed by the California~~
17 ~~Political Reform Act and other provisions of this Chapter, each candidate committee supporting a~~
18 ~~candidate for Mayor shall file a statement with the Ethics Commission indicating when the candidate~~
19 ~~committee has received contributions to be deposited into its Campaign Contribution Trust Account or~~
20 ~~made expenditures that equal or exceed \$50,000 within 24 hours of reaching or exceeding that amount.~~

21 ~~(2) In addition to the supplemental report in Subsection (b)(1) of this Section, each~~
22 ~~candidate committee supporting a candidate for Mayor shall file a statement with the Ethics~~
23 ~~Commission disclosing when the candidate committee has received contributions to be deposited into~~
24 ~~its Campaign Contribution Trust Account or made expenditures that in the aggregate equal or exceed~~
25 ~~\$1,000,000. The candidate committee shall file this report within 24 hours of reaching or exceeding~~

1 ~~the threshold. Thereafter, the candidate committee shall file an additional supplemental report within~~
2 ~~24 hours of every time the candidate committee receives additional contributions or makes additional~~
3 ~~expenditures that in the aggregate equal or exceed \$50,000.~~

4 ~~(3) The Executive Director shall post the information disclosed on statements required~~
5 ~~by this subsection on the website of the Ethics Commission within two business days of the statement's~~
6 ~~filing.~~

7 ~~(c) The supplemental statements required by Subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) are not required~~
8 ~~until the Ethics Commission has certified that at least one candidate is eligible to receive public funds~~
9 ~~under this Chapter, provided that within two business days of the date that the Ethics Commission~~
10 ~~provides notice under this subsection that it has certified that a candidate is eligible to receive public~~
11 ~~funds under this Chapter, any report that previously would have been required under (a)(2) and (b)(2)~~
12 ~~must be filed. Within two business days of certifying that at least one candidate is eligible to receive~~
13 ~~public financing under this Chapter, the Ethics Commission shall post a notice on its website, send out~~
14 ~~a press release and send written notice by regular or electronic mail to all other candidates running for~~
15 ~~the same City elective office and to any other person who has requested such notice.~~

17 **SEC. 1.161. CAMPAIGN ADVERTISEMENTS.**

18 (a) DISCLAIMERS. In addition to complying with the disclaimer requirements set forth
19 in Chapter 4 of the California Political Reform Act, California Government Code sections
20 84100 et seq., and its enabling regulations, all committees making expenditures which
21 support or oppose any candidate for City elective office or any City measure shall also comply
22 with the following additional requirements:

23 * * * *

24 (2) WEBSITE REFERRAL. Each disclaimer required by the Political Reform
25 Act or its enabling regulations and by this Section 1.161 shall be followed in the same

1 required format, size, and speed by the following phrase: "Financial disclosures are available
2 at ~~sfethics.org~~[website address designated by the Ethics Commission]." A substantially similar
3 statement that specifies the web site may be used as an alternative in audio communications.

4 * * * *

5 (4) CANDIDATE ADVERTISEMENTS. Advertisements by candidate
6 committees shall include the following disclaimer statements: "Paid for by _____ (insert
7 the name of the candidate committee)." and "Financial disclosures are available at
8 ~~sfethics.org~~[website address designated by the Ethics Commission]." Except as provided in
9 subsections (a)(3) and (a)(5), the statements' format, size, and speed shall comply with the
10 disclaimer requirements for independent expenditures for or against a candidate set forth in
11 the Political Reform Act and its enabling regulations.

12 * * * *

13 14 **SEC. 1.162. ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS.**

15 (a) DISCLAIMERS.

16 (1) Every electioneering communication for which a statement is filed pursuant
17 to subsection (b) shall include the following disclaimer: "Paid for by _____ (insert the
18 name of the person who paid for the communication)." and "Financial disclosures are
19 available at ~~sfethics.org~~[website address designated by the Ethics Commission]."

20 * * * *

21 22 **SEC. 1.170. PENALTIES.**

23 (a) CRIMINAL. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of this
24 Chapter ~~7~~ shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by
25 a fine of not more than \$5,000 for each violation or by imprisonment in the County jail for a

1 period of not more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment; provided, however,
2 that any willful or knowing failure to report contributions or expenditures done with intent to
3 mislead or deceive or any willful or knowing violation of the provisions of Sections 1.114,
4 1.126, or 1.127 ~~of this Chapter~~ shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 for each
5 violation or three times the amount not reported or the amount received in excess of the
6 amount allowable pursuant to Sections 1.114, 1.126, or 1.127 ~~of this Chapter~~, or three times
7 the amount expended in excess of the amount allowable pursuant to Section ~~1.130~~ 1.131 or
8 1.140, whichever is greater.

9 (b) CIVIL. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any of the provisions of
10 this Chapter ~~1~~ shall be liable in a civil action brought by the City Attorney for an amount up to
11 \$5,000 for each violation or three times the amount not reported or the amount received in
12 excess of the amount allowable pursuant to Sections 1.114, 1.126, or 1.127 or three times the
13 amount expended in excess of the amount allowable pursuant to Section ~~1.130~~ 1.131 or 1.140,
14 whichever is greater. In determining the amount of liability, the court may take into account
15 the seriousness of the violation, the degree of culpability of the defendant, and the ability of
16 the defendant to pay.

17 * * * *

18 (i) EFFECT OF VIOLATION ON CANDIDACY.

19 (1) If a candidate is convicted, in a court of law, of a violation of this Chapter at
20 any time prior to his or her election, his or her candidacy shall be terminated immediately and
21 he or she shall be no longer eligible for election, unless the court at the time of sentencing
22 specifically determines that this provision shall not be applicable. No person convicted of a
23 misdemeanor under this Chapter after his or her election shall be a candidate for any other
24 City elective office for a period of five years following the date of the conviction unless the
25 court shall at the time of sentencing specifically determine that this provision shall not be

1 applicable.

2 (2) If a candidate for the Board of Supervisors certified as eligible for public
3 financing is found by a court to have exceeded ~~their the Individual Expenditure Ceiling~~ in
4 this Chapter by ~~ten percent~~ 10% or more at any time prior to his or her election, such violation
5 shall constitute official misconduct. The Mayor may suspend any member of the Board of
6 Supervisors for such a violation, and seek removal of the candidate from office following the
7 procedures set forth in Charter Section 15.105(a).

8 (3) A plea of nolo contendere, in a court of law, shall be deemed a conviction for
9 purposes of this Section 1.170.

10
11 Section 2. Prerequisites for Enactment; Super-Majority Vote Requirement. The
12 enactment of Section 1 of this ordinance is subject to provisions of the Campaign and
13 Governmental Conduct Code that require the amendments to be approved by the Ethics
14 Commission by a supermajority vote of at least four members of the Commission, and
15 approved by a supermajority vote of at least eight members of the Board of Supervisors.

16
17 Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective on the 31st days
18 after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns
19 the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the
20 Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

21 This ordinance shall become operative on the later of January 1, 2027, or the 31st day
22 after the effective date.

1 Section 4. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
2 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
3 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
4 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
5 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
6 the official title of the ordinance.

7
8 Section 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word
9 of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be
10 invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision
11 shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of the ordinance. The
12 Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each and
13 every section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and word not declared invalid or
14 unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of this ordinance or application
15 thereof would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

16
17 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
18 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

19 By: /s/ Michael Gerchow
20 MICHAEL GERCHOW
21 Deputy City Attorney

22
23
24
25
4901-2950-3405

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Amended in Committee – July 16, 2026)

[Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code - Campaign Public Financing Expenditure Ceilings and Reporting Requirements, and Campaign Contribution Limits]

Ordinance amending the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to modify the public financing program for candidates for Mayor and Board of Supervisors by replacing the current process of continuous adjustments of individual expenditure ceilings to an approach in which the ceiling is removed for candidates within the race once certain spending reaches a specified amount, and adjusting reporting requirements; raising the campaign contribution limit for contributions to candidates for local office from \$500 to \$1,000 and authorizing the Ethics Commission to adjust the contribution limit going forward for changes in the Consumer Price Index; allowing the Ethics Commission to designate the website to be used in campaign advertisement disclaimers; and increasing the rate at which public funding is made available to qualified candidates for Mayor or Board of Supervisors.

Existing Law

San Francisco implemented a limited public campaign financing program after the 2000 election to address concerns about the role of money in campaigns and politics. Under the program administered by the Ethics Commission, candidates for the Office of Mayor and the Board of Supervisors who qualify and meet program eligibility requirements may receive public funds. To participate, candidates must agree to adhere to campaign spending limits. The initial individual expenditure ceiling (IEC) for Supervisorial candidates is \$350,000, and the initial IEC for Mayoral candidates is \$1.7 million. These initial IEC levels have not been adjusted since 2019. The ceilings, however, may be incrementally raised during the course of a campaign to allow candidates subject to the limit to respond when independent expenditures and opponent fundraising exceed the candidate's current IEC. This process of incrementally adjusting each candidate's IEC requires ongoing reporting by candidates and ongoing adjustments by Ethics Commission auditors.

Candidates who qualify for the public campaign financing program receive an initial one-time payment, followed by additional payments at a ratio of \$6 dollars in public funds for every \$1 in matching contributions raised by the candidates. Qualified candidates for the Office of Mayor receive an initial payment of \$300,000 and are eligible for additional funds up to maximum of \$1,200,000 total public funds for non-incumbents, or \$1,185,000 total public funds for incumbents, based on this 6:1 ratio of matching dollars. Qualified candidates for the Board of Supervisors receive an initial payment of \$60,000 and are eligible for additional funds up to maximum of \$255,000 total public funds for non-incumbents, or \$252,000 total public funds for incumbents, based on this 6:1 ratio of matching dollars.

As permitted under the California Political Reform Act, San Francisco has adopted by ordinance a local contribution limit of \$500. This limit has remained unchanged since 2000.

Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Sections 1.161 and 1.162 require campaign advertisements to contain a disclaimer with the language "Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org."

Amendments to Current Law

These amendments adopt a mechanism to remove the expenditure ceiling for candidates within a race once: (1) a non-participating candidate receives contributions, or makes expenditures, in excess of 75 percent or more of the applicable expenditure ceiling total; (2) a participating candidate makes expenditures in excess of the applicable expenditure ceiling; or (3) a person makes payments or incurs expenses for independent expenditures, electioneering communications, or members communications that clearly identify a candidate seeking election to the same office that either oppose the candidate's election to the City elective office or support the election of an opponent of the candidate to the same City elective office, and total more than 50% of the applicable expenditure ceiling. These amendments also remove unnecessary reporting requirements and impose additional reporting requirements to assist Ethics Commission staff in identifying when a particular candidate's expenditure ceiling should be lifted.

In addition, these amendments modify the initial payment and the matching ratio for qualified candidates participating in the public campaign financing program, while leaving unchanged the maximum amount of public funds a candidate may receive. Qualified candidates for the Office of Mayor would receive an increased initial payment of \$400,000, and would be eligible for additional funds at a new ratio of \$8 dollars in public funds for every \$1 in matching contributions raised by the candidates up to the unchanged maximum of \$1,200,000 total public funds for non-incumbents, or \$1,185,000 total public funds for incumbents. Similarly, qualified candidates for the Board of Supervisors would receive an increased initial payment of \$80,000, and would be eligible for additional funds at a new ratio of \$8 dollars in public funds for every \$1 in matching contributions raised by the candidates up to the unchanged maximum of \$255,000 total public funds for non-incumbents, or \$252,000 total public funds for incumbents.

This amendment will also adjust the contribution limit from \$500 to \$1000 to reflect changes to the California Consumer Price Index and will add a mechanism for the Ethics Commission to regularly adjust the limit based on future changes to the California Consumer Price Index, rounded down to the nearest \$100. This amendment similarly allows the Ethics Commission to regularly adjust these loan limits to reflect future changes in the California Consumer Price Index, rounded off to the nearest \$1,000.

Finally, this amendment updates the disclaimer requirements in anticipation of the transition to a different web domain for the Ethics Commission to comply with 2023 state legislation requiring that cities and counties must maintain websites that utilize a “.gov.” or “.ca.gov” domain by January 1, 2029.

Background Information

The proposed amendments to the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code must be approved by the Ethics Commission by a supermajority vote of at least four members of the Commission and approved by a supermajority vote of at least eight members of the Board of Supervisors.

This new version of the ordinance modifies the prior version by (1) removing the proposed increase to limits on a candidate’s personal loan to their own campaign, while retaining the authority of the Ethics Commission to adjust the loan limits in the future based on changes to the California Consumer Price Index; (2) requiring that any future adjustment to campaign contributions limits be based on changes to the California Consumer Price Index be rounded down to the nearest \$100; (3) changing how adjustments to expenditure ceilings are made; and (4) increasing the initial payments to qualified candidates participating in the public campaign finance program and adjusting the ratio of additional payments from 6:1 to 8:1 while retaining the current maximum total payments to eligible candidates.

4936-2115-6222

Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☐ 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- ☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- ☐ 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- ☐ 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor inquires..."
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request
- ☐ 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No.
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- ☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission ☐ Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

Long Title or text listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

