

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code - Campaign Contributions from Business Entities]

Ordinance amending the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to require additional disclosures for campaign contributions from business entities to San Francisco political committees.

Existing Law

Campaign committees that receive contributions over \$100 must disclose information about the contributors on periodic reports filed with the Ethics Commission. The reports are available to the public on the Ethics Commission's website and at the Commission's office. Among other information, the committee must report each contributor's name; the contributor's street address; the contributor's occupation; and the name of the contributor's employer or, if the contributor is self-employed, the name of the contributor's business. There are no requirements for disclosure of information about the management and funding of limited liability companies, S corporations, and partnerships that make contributions to committees.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would require local campaign committees to disclose the following information for every contribution from a limited liability company, S corporation, or partnership: (1) the purpose of the entity; (2) the names of the entity's principal officers, including its President, Vice-President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Director; and (3) information about any funds the entity has received through a contract or grant from any federal, state, or local government agency within the previous 15 years for a project located in San Francisco.

The ordinance would become operative on January 1, 2018.

Background Information

The City's campaign finance laws are found in the Article I, Chapter 1 of the San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code, also referred to as the Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance ("CFRO"). Many of CFRO's provisions were initially adopted by the voters and if the voters do not approve any amendments themselves, any other changes are subject to special approval requirements. The City may only amend CFRO if:

- the amendment furthers the purposes of CFRO;

- the Ethics Commission approves the proposed amendment in advance by at least a four-fifths vote of all its members;
- the proposed amendment is available for public review at least 30 days before the amendment is considered by the Board of Supervisors or any committee of the Board; and
- the Board approves the proposed amendment by at least a two-thirds vote of all its members.

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