

**Los Angeles City Charter
ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

SEC. 471 PUBLIC MATCHING FUNDS AND CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS.

(a) Findings and Purposes.

- (1) Monetary contributions to political campaigns are a legitimate form of participation in the American political process, but the financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not permit them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.
- (2) Therefore, this section is enacted to accomplish the following purposes:
 - (A) To assist serious candidates in raising enough money to communicate their views and positions adequately to the public without excessive expenditures or contributions, thereby promoting public discussion of the important issues involved in political campaigns.
 - (B) To limit overall expenditures in campaigns, thereby reducing the pressure on candidates to raise large campaign funds for defensive purposes, beyond the amount necessary to communicate reasonably with voters.
 - (C) To provide a source of campaign financing in the form of limited public matching funds.
 - (D) To substantially restrict fund-raising in non-election years.
 - (E) To increase the value to candidates of smaller contributions.
 - (F) To reduce the excessive fund-raising advantage of incumbents and thus encourage competition for elective office.
 - (G) To help restore public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.

(b) **Matching Funds and Expenditure Limitations Authorization.**

The City shall also adopt by ordinance limitations on campaign expenditures by candidates for elected City office who qualify for and accept public matching funds. The City shall adopt by ordinance regulations concerning the use of public funds to partially finance campaigns for elected City office through a system of matching public funds for qualifying campaign contributions. Such ordinances may be amended to further the purposes of this section of the Charter.

(c) **Appropriation of Funds.**

- (1) The City Council shall appropriate two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per fiscal year for public matching funds, subject to the limitations in subsection 2, below. The Council shall appropriate such funds for each following fiscal year. The amount of such appropriation shall be adjusted for cost of living changes based on the percentage increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index (for all items other than housing) for the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan statistical area.
- (2) All such funds shall be appropriated into a trust fund established by the Council by ordinance with interest accruing to the fund. The amount in the trust fund shall not exceed eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) in any fiscal year, and the amount otherwise required herein to be appropriated annually to that fund shall be reduced by the amount estimated as necessary to comply with such limitation. Such amount shall be adjusted for cost of living changes based on the percentage increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index (for all items other than housing) for the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan statistical area.
- (3) If there are insufficient funds to provide the maximum matching funds available to a candidate in any election, as specified by ordinance, the limitations on total contributions from persons other than individuals imposed by Section 470 shall not apply to any of the candidates for the same office.
- (4) The funds used to make payments for matching funds shall come exclusively from City sources of revenues.