



# City Commissioner Update!

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## Frequently Asked Questions About the Commissioner Fundraising Ban

To avoid any appearance that City decisions are tied to political fundraising, the City recently enacted a new law that prohibits City Board and Commission Members from certain political fundraising activities. The new law became effective April 11, 2004.

### Summary of the Law.

As a Member of a City board or commission who is required to file a Statement of Economic Interests, during your service to the City of Los Angeles, you are not permitted to fundraise for any elective City officer, candidate for elective City office, or any of his or her City controlled committees (that is, committees controlled by the elective City officer or candidate, including any City campaign, officeholder, legal defense fund, or City ballot measure committee).

### Questions?

Contact the City Ethics Commission Advice Staff for Assistance (213) 978-1960 or [cec@ethics.lacity.org](mailto:cec@ethics.lacity.org).

The Ethics Commission sent the text of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 49.7.8 to all City Boards and Commissions. If you need another copy, please call or email us or find the law on our web page at <http://ethics.lacity.org> under "Laws & Publications."

The fundraising activities prohibited by law are:

- Requesting, either orally or in writing, that another person make a contribution;
- Inviting a person to a fundraising event;
- Supplying names to be used for invitations to a fundraising event;
- Allowing your name, signature or title to appear on a solicitation for contributions or an invitation to a fundraising event;
- Providing the use of your home or business to hold a fundraising event;
- Paying for at least a majority of the costs of a fundraising event;
- Hiring another person to conduct a fundraising event;
- Delivering a contribution, other than your own, either in person or by mail in a manner in which you communicate your identity to the elective City officer, candidate for elective City office, or any agent of these persons; or
- Acting as an agent or intermediary in connection with the making of a contribution. (LAMC Sec 49.7.8 C).

### Frequently Asked Questions.

**As a City Commissioner, may I make a contribution to a City official or City candidate?**

Yes, you may make your own campaign contributions subject to the City's contribution limits. The new law prohibits a set of enumerated "fundraising activities" by a Commissioner, not the making of his or her own personal contribution.

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## Frequently Asked Questions About the Fundraising Ban

### Are all Commissioners appointed by an elected City official subject to the fundraising ban?

No. The prohibition applies only to those Commissioners who are required to file Statements of Economic Interests and are on City of Los Angeles boards or commissions. The ban does not apply to Commissioners, for example, who are appointed by a City official to multi-jurisdictional boards such as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

### Who are the members of City of Los Angeles Boards and Commissions?

Through new appointments and attrition, the composition of City boards and commissions can change frequently. For the most current list available, please see "Roster of City Commissioners" compiled by the City Clerk and available on the City of Los Angeles Website home page at [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org).\* **A list of City Commissions that are subject to the ban is attached.**

\*Using the Boards and Commissions drop down list, select "Commission Roster." Please note that the following Commissions listed on the roster are multi-jurisdictional agencies or are commissions with members who are not required to file Statements of Economic Interest and are therefore, not subject to the ban: Affordable Housing Commission, Community Forest Advisory Committee, Design Review Board(s), Relocation Appeals Board, Commission on the Status of Women, Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee(s), Zoo Commission, Community Development Bank, Community Forest Advisory, Health Facilities Authority, LA Export Terminal, Homeless Services Authority, LA Linked Banking, MLK Jr. General Hospital, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Water District, Native American Indian Commission.

### May I fundraise for a committee other than a candidate's campaign committee (e.g. a PAC) that supports or opposes a candidate or candidates for elective City office in Los Angeles?

The ban applies only to commissioner fundraising for City campaign, officeholder, legal defense fund and city ballot measure committees that are controlled by a city candidate or officeholder. .

If you choose to fundraise for a PAC, keep in mind that existing law prohibits a commissioner from soliciting a political contribution from any person who currently has a matter pending before you in any proceeding or legislative or administrative action, or from any person who had such a matter pending during the previous 12 months. Further, please be aware that any contribution raised for or earmarked to support or oppose any City of Los Angeles candidate is limited to \$500 per person per calendar year.

### If I am a partner in a law firm, is my firm also barred from holding a fundraising event?

Only the City Commissioner is subject to the fundraising prohibition. While your firm may hold a fundraiser, you may not be involved in any way, and you must abide by the enumerated fundraising prohibitions. For example, your name may not appear on the fundraising invitation - - even as part of a letterhead - - and you may not provide names of individuals to be invited to the event. The law does not prohibit you from attending the event.

### May my spouse hold a fundraiser in our home?

Again, remember the law applies only to the City Commissioner. Nothing prevents your spouse from holding a fundraiser, but you should not be involved in organizing or conducting this event. You may attend the event.

*If you have additional questions about the Board Member and Commissioner fundraising ban, please feel free to contact the City Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.*

## **Economic Interest Filing Requirements of City Boards and Commissions**

This list is based on the roster of City Boards and Commissions published by the Office of the City Clerk. It is not intended to be a complete or exhaustive list of all boards and commissions, as ad hoc boards or commissions may exist and may not appear on the roster. The filing status/requirements of some boards or commissions may also be subject to change, as it could be determined in the future that some boards or commissions should be required to file annual statements of economic interests.

### **City Boards and Commissions Whose Members are Required to File Annual Statements of Economic Interests and Subject to the Fundraising Ban As of May 19, 2004**

Airport Commissioners, Board of	Employee Relations Board
Animal Services, Board of	Environmental Affairs Commission
Area Planning Commission, Central	Ethics Commission, City
Area Planning Commission, East Los Angeles	Fire and Police Pension Commissioners, Board of
Area Planning Commission, Harbor	Fire Commission
Area Planning Commission, North Valley	Harbor Commissioners, Board of
Area Planning Commission, South Los Angeles	Human Relations Commission
Area Planning Commission, South Valley	Industrial Development Authority
Area Planning Commission, West Los Angeles	Information Technology Commissioners, Board of
Building and Safety Commission, Board of	Library Commissioners, Board of
Children, Youth and Their Families, Commission for	Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System
Civil Service Commissioners, Board of	Neighborhood Commissioners, Board of
Community Redevelopment Agency*	Planning Commission
Convention Center, Board of Los Angeles	Police Commissioners, Board of
Cultural Affairs Commission	Police Permit Review Panel
Cultural Heritage Commission	Public Works Commissioners, Board of
Disability, Commission on	Quality and Productivity Commission
Disabled Access Appeals Commission	Recreation and Parks Commissioners, Board of
El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument Authority	Rent Adjustment Commission
	Taxicab Commissioners, Board of
	Transportation Commissioners, Board of
	Water and Power Commissioners, Board of

\* *The Community Redevelopment Agency has adopted a Commissioner fundraising ban which has not yet been approved by the City Council as of May 19, 2004.*

**Note:**

As of May 19, 2004, Commissioners on the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, a State-Chartered agency, are not subject to the fundraising ban for City Board and Commission Members. That agency may choose to adopt such a ban, but has not done so at this time.

Please feel free to contact the City Ethics Commission Policy Division  
at (213) 978-1960 if you have questions.