

---

# LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

N E W S

*...preserving the public trust*

---

For Immediate Release:  
February 25, 2003

Contact: Barbara Freeman  
(213) 978-1960

## **Los Angeles City Council Moves Closer To Campaign Finance Amendments Council's Rules Committee Recommends Series of City Ethics Commission Proposals to Enhance Existing Campaign Finance Laws**

Today the Los Angeles City Council's Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee completed action to approve a comprehensive series of campaign reforms proposed last year by the City Ethics Commission that are designed to reduce the real or perceived corrupting influence of large special interest campaign spending in City elections. The package, which now moves forward for full City Council consideration, is intended to address the effects of unlimited "non-candidate" political spending in City campaigns that are made by businesses, unions, and political parties to support or oppose City candidates. Such spending reached unprecedented levels in the 2001 City elections, with the \$3.2 million reported in non-candidate spending totaling more than four times the amount in the entire decade leading to the 2001 elections. If adopted by the City Council and Mayor, candidates participating in the City's public matching funds program who face an opponent that benefits from significant non-candidate spending would, among other things, receive their public matching funds at a faster rate and be permitted to collect contributions above the limits normally allowed by City law.

"The Rules Committee support for this legislation is an encouraging step forward," said Commission Executive Director LeeAnn Pelham. "These enhancements to our existing campaign laws will keep our system relevant for candidates and help ensure their continued high participation rates, which has been critical to the success of the public matching funds program."

The full City Council is tentatively scheduled to consider the reform package at a public meeting during the second week of March. If approved by the Council and the Mayor, the new reforms could be in place in time for the 2005 City election cycle.

For more information, contact the City Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.

#####