
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
N E W S
...preserving the public trust

For Immediate Release: February 26, 2013

Contact: Jennifer Bravo (213) 978-1960

INDEPENDENT SPENDING REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

Independent spending has exceeded \$7.2 million in the 2013 City and Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education (LAUSD) regular primary elections. This is the most independent spending ever in a municipal election cycle. The second highest level of independent spending occurred during the 2011 elections, when total independent spending for both the primary election and the general election was just under \$6.2 million.

City seats on the upcoming March 5 ballot include Mayor, City Attorney, Controller, and eight City Council districts. With a week to go before the primary election, independent spending in those races now totals over \$3.8 million, with nearly \$3 million of that spent in the race for Mayor. The last similarly large and competitive City election was held in 2001, and independent spending that year totaled \$679,721 for the entire primary election. The amount of independent spending in the current City election represents a 460-percent increase over the 2001 primary total.

Three LAUSD districts are also on the ballot. Independent spending in those races has now reached nearly \$3.4 million. Over \$1.5 million has been spent on the race in District 4, nearly \$1 million has been spent in District 2, and nearly \$900,000 has been spent in District 6. The last time these seats were on the ballot was in 2009, when independent spending totaled \$315,205 for the entire primary election. The amount of independent spending in the current LAUSD election represents a 977-percent increase over the 2009 primary total.

In the LAUSD races, total spending reported to date is \$4,124,870. Independent spending represents 82 percent of that total, and spending by candidates accounts for 18 percent. The reverse is true in City elections, where total reported spending is \$23,148,683. Over 83 percent of that spending has been done by candidates, and 17 percent has been done independently.

Independent expenditures are expenditures made for communications that support or oppose candidates or ballot measures but are not coordinated with or authorized by a candidate. During an election cycle, independent expenditures must be reported to the Ethics Commission within 24 hours of being made.

For additional information about both independent and candidate spending in these elections, including disclosure reports and campaign communications, please visit ethics.lacity.org/campaignfinance.cfm or contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.

The City Ethics Commission was created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the City's governmental ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying laws.