

LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

N E W S

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For Immediate Release: March 1, 2013

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ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT

The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission today announced annual adjustments to limits and thresholds found in the City's campaign finance laws. The mandatory adjustments are calculated based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The changes will not affect any current City election. The new amounts will become effective for any election whose primary fundraising window opens after today. The fundraising window for the 2015 regular City primary election will open on September 3, 2013. The adjusted amounts do not apply to Los Angeles Unified School District board elections.

City law requires the CPI adjustments. The Ethics Commission must "annually adjust the limitation and disclosure thresholds in City law to reflect any increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index." Los Angeles City Charter § 702(h). The adjustment must be published on or before March 1. Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.7.3

The amounts that must be adjusted and the method for making the adjustments are also specified by law. *Id.* The adjustments must reflect the annual percent change in CPI for all urban consumers for the region that includes the Los Angeles metropolitan area, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The adjustments are calculated by multiplying the amounts subject to adjustment by the percent change in CPI from December 2011 to the December of the year prior to the adjustment. The resulting numbers are rounded as required by City law.

The adjusted and rounded amounts (listed in the table on page 2) reflect a 1.93% growth in CPI for the Los Angeles region between December 2011 and December 2012.

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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.

2013 CPI Adjustment Table

The amounts below will not affect any City election currently underway. The revised amounts will apply only to City elections whose primary election fundraising window opens after March 1, 2013. These limits do not apply to LAUSD elections.

| Limit or Threshold | Current Amount | 2013 Un-rounded Amount | 2013 Rounded Amount | Change |
|---|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Contribution Limit (Council) | \$700 | \$713.51 | \$700 | None |
| Contribution Limit (City) | \$1,300 | \$1,325.09 | \$1,300 | None |
| Aggregate Non-Individual Contribution | | | | |
| -Council | \$202,300 | \$206,204.39 | \$206,200 | \$3,900 |
| -City Atty / Controller | \$539,400 | \$549,810.42 | \$549,800 | \$10,200 |
| -Mayor | \$1,213,800 | \$1,237,226.34 | \$1,237,200 | \$23,400 |
| Cash Contributions | \$25 | \$25.48 | \$25 | None |
| Aggregate Anonymous Contributions | \$200 | NA* | \$200 | None |
| Matching Funds Candidate's Personal Funds | | | | |
| -Council | \$31,100 | \$31,700.23 | \$31,700 | \$600 |
| -Citywide | \$124,500 | \$126,902.85 | \$126,900 | \$2,400 |
| Expenditure Ceiling (Primary) | | | | |
| -Council | \$480,000 | \$489,264 | \$489,000 | \$9,000 |
| -Controller | \$1,119,000 | \$1,140,569.70 | \$1,141,000 | \$22,000 |
| -City Atty | \$1,259,000 | \$1,283,298.70 | \$1,283,000 | \$24,000 |
| -Mayor | \$2,798,000 | \$2,852,001.40 | \$2,852,000 | \$54,000 |
| Expenditure Ceiling (General) | | | | |
| -Council | \$400,000 | \$407,720 | \$407,000 | \$7,000 |
| -Controller | \$840,000 | \$856,212 | \$856,000 | \$16,000 |
| -City Atty | \$979,000 | \$997,894.70 | \$998,000 | \$19,000 |
| -Mayor | \$2,237,000 | \$2,280,174.10 | \$2,280,000 | \$43,000 |
| Independent Spending Ceiling Trigger | | | | |
| -Council | \$77,000 | \$78,486.10 | \$78,000 | \$1,000 |
| -City Atty / Controller | \$155,000 | \$157,991.50 | \$158,000 | \$3,000 |
| -Mayor | \$309,000 | \$314,963.70 | \$315,000 | \$6,000 |

* Amount cannot exceed \$200 limit in state law.

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