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

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Bravo (213) 978-1960

**MAYOR SIGNS ORDINANCE THAT
STRENGTHENS CITY'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS**

Today, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa signed into law a new campaign finance ordinance that governs City elections. The City Council approved the ordinance on September 19. The ordinance is expected to become effective in late October, after it has been published for 30 days.

In the wake of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Arizona Free Enterprise Club's Freedom Club PAC v. Bennett*, 131 S. Ct. 2806 (2011), the Ethics Commission undertook its first comprehensive review of the City's campaign finance laws. After a year of detailed analysis, the Ethics Commission recommended to the City Council an extensive set of improvements to the laws that strengthen the City's public matching funds program, align City law with recent court decisions, address changes in technologies, and enhance disclaimer and disclosure requirements.

Some of the key changes in the new ordinance include an increase in the rate at which eligible candidates will receive matching public funds; the repeal of trigger provisions in the matching funds program that are now unconstitutional in light of *Arizona v. Bennett*; clarifications regarding independent expenditure communications; improved disclaimers for political communications; and increased disclosure by City committees.

The new ordinance will govern the upcoming 2013 municipal elections, although some provisions will not apply until the 2015 elections. The Ethics Commission will be publishing guides and educational materials to help candidates, contributors, and others who participate in City elections understand and comply with the new laws. Educational materials will be available, and information regarding the Ethics Commission's study and recommendations is currently available, at ethics.lacity.org.

The City Ethics Commission was created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the governmental ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying laws of the City of Los Angeles. Current commissioners include President Paul Turner, Vice President Valerie Vanaman, Ralph Fertig, and Nathan Hochman.