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

For Immediate Release: February 27, 2015

Contact: Lisa Ishimaru (213) 978-1960

ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission today announced the mandatory annual adjustments to limits and thresholds in the City's campaign finance laws. The new amounts do *not* affect the 2015 elections. Rather, the adjusted amounts will apply to the 2017 regular City elections. The adjusted amounts do not apply to elections for the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education.

The adjustments are calculated based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). City law requires the Ethics Commission to "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 Ethics Commission staff is required to publish the adjusted amounts each year on or before March 1. Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.7.3(B)(1).

The amounts that must be adjusted and the method for making the adjustments are specified by law. Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.7.3. 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. Los Angeles Municipal Code §49.7.3(B)(2). The resulting numbers are rounded as required by City law. Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.7.3(B)(3).

The adjusted and rounded amounts in the table below reflect a CPI growth of less than one percent for the Los Angeles region between December 2013 and December 2014.

--more--

2015 CPI Adjustment Table

*The adjusted amounts below apply to City elections for which the primary election fundraising window opens after **March 1, 2015**. These limits do not apply to the 2015 regular City elections or to LAUSD elections.*

Limit / Threshold	Limit for 2015 Elections	Limit for 2017 Elections and Special Elections After 3/1/15
Per-person Contribution Limit		
- Council Candidates	\$700	\$700
- Citywide Candidates	\$1,300	\$1,400
Aggregate Limit on Non-Individual Contributions		
- Council	\$206,200	\$210,100
- City Attorney / Controller	\$549,800	\$560,100
- Mayor	\$1,237,200	\$1,260,500
Miscellaneous Contribution Limits		
- Per-person Cash Contribution Limit	\$25	\$30
- Aggregate Limit on Anonymous Contributions*	\$200	\$200
Limit on Matching Funds Candidate's Contributions to Self		
- Council	\$31,700	\$32,300
- Mayor / City Attorney / Controller	\$126,900	\$129,300
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidates (Primary)		
- Council	\$489,000	\$498,000
- Controller	\$1,141,000	\$1,162,000
- City Attorney	\$1,283,000	\$1,307,000
- Mayor	\$2,852,000	\$2,906,000
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidates (General)		
- Council	\$408,000	\$415,000
- Controller	\$856,000	\$872,000
- City Attorney	998,000	\$1,017,000
- Mayor	\$2,280,000	\$2,323,000
Independent Spending Per Race That Lifts Expenditure Ceiling		
- Council	\$78,000	\$80,000
- City Attorney / Controller	\$158,000	\$161,000
- Mayor	\$315,000	\$321,000

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

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.