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

For Immediate Release: March 1, 2017

Contact: Lisa Ishimaru (213) 978-1960

2017 CPI ADJUSTMENTS FOR CITY ELECTIONS

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 limits do *not* affect the 2017 elections. Rather, they apply beginning with any City election for which the fundraising window opens after today. The adjusted limits 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 by March 1 of each year. 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 limits in the table below reflect a CPI growth of nearly two percent for the Los Angeles region between December 2015 and December 2016.

--more--

2017 CPI Adjustments City Elections

The amounts in the far right column apply to City elections in which the primary election fundraising window opens after **March 1, 2017**. They do not apply to the 2017 regular City elections or to LAUSD elections.

	2016 Adjustment	2017 Adjustment
Per-person Contribution Limit		
- City Council Candidates	\$700	\$800
- Citywide Candidates	\$1,400	\$1400
Aggregate Limit on Non-Individual Contributions		
- City Council	\$214,400	\$218,600
- City Attorney / Controller	\$571,500	\$582,800
- Mayor	\$1,286,100	\$1,311,400
Miscellaneous Contribution Limits		
- Per-person Cash Contribution Limit	\$30	\$30
- Aggregate Limit on Anonymous Contributions	\$200	\$200
Limit on Matching Funds Candidate's Contributions to Self		
- City Council	\$33,000	\$33,600
- Mayor / City Attorney / Controller	\$131,900	\$134,500
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidates (Primary)		
- City Council	\$509,000	\$519,000
- Controller	\$1,186,000	\$1,209,000
- City Attorney	\$1,334,000	\$1,360,000
- Mayor	\$2,965,000	\$3,023,000
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidates (General)		
- City Council	\$424,000	\$432,000
- Controller	\$890,000	\$908,000
- City Attorney	\$1,037,000	\$1,058,000
- Mayor	\$2,370,000	\$2,417,000
Independent Spending Per Race That Lifts Expenditure Ceiling		
- City Council	\$82,000	\$83,000
- City Attorney / Controller	\$164,000	\$167,000
- Mayor	\$327,000	\$334,000

The 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.