
2017 LAUSD Elections—Independent Expenditures

This is a brief overview of some of the City and state laws that apply to LAUSD elections. Anyone who participates in LAUSD elections is responsible for complying with all applicable laws.

Independent Expenditures

An independent expenditure (IE) is an expenditure made by any person in connection with a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified LAUSD candidate or ballot measure or, taken as a whole, unambiguously urges a particular result in an LAUSD election.

A communication is independent when it is not authorized, distributed, paid for, or behested by the affected candidate or committee. In certain circumstances, an IE communication can be made when an organization communicates with its members.

Disclosure Threshold

A person must notify the Ethics Commission of an IE communication when the person makes or incurs payments totaling \$1,000 or more in support of or opposition to an LAUSD candidate.

Filing Requirements

Notice of a payment for an IE must be filed with the Ethics Commission (Form 57-L) within 24 hours of meeting the disclosure threshold. The notice must identify specific information about the IE communication, including each candidate supported or opposed, the amount spent, contributions of \$100 or more received since the date of the last campaign disclosure statement, and contributions made to LAUSD candidates during the same time. The notice must also include a copy of the communication, itself.

Other filings are also required by committees that receive contributions, including the state's 24-hour notice of certain IE communications that total \$1,000 or more, the state's 24-hour notice of contributions of \$1,000 or more, and periodic committee disclosure statements required by both state and City law.

Disclaimer Requirements

Please refer to the Fair Political Practices Commission's publication [Political Advertising Disclaimers](#) for information about the state's disclaimer requirements for independent expenditure ads.

The Ethics Commission recommends that IE communications also include the following disclaimer:

"Additional information is available at ethics.lacity.org."

Liability

Late penalties of \$25 per day apply to required filings. In addition, a person who knowingly violates or causes another person to violate the City's campaign finance laws is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be subject to an administrative enforcement action. Violations are also subject to potential fines of the greater of \$5,000 per violation or three times the amount of money at issue. Additional liability may also be imposed under state law. Possible violations may be reported to the Ethics Commission's whistleblower hotline at (800) 824-4825.

Contact Information

Please contact us at (213) 978-1960 with any campaign finance questions or needs.