

CHAPTER 7 – LIMITS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Certain political activities may not take place on City time, in City facilities, or with City resources. Some limitations apply specifically to “City officials.” City officials are elected City officers or agency board members, officers, employees, commissioners, or consultants who are required to file a California Form 700.

A. PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY

No one may do either of the following:

- a. Solicit contributions from a City official or employee to support or oppose a City candidate or officeholder. LAMC § 49.7.11(B)(1).
- b. Solicit, receive, deliver, or attempt to deliver a contribution in a room or building that is owned by the City or a room or building that is paid for and used by the City and occupied by a City employee in the discharge of City duties. LAMC § 49.7.11(B)(2).
 - This prohibition does not apply to a City room or building that is available to the public for organized campaign activities.
 - This prohibition does not apply to a contribution received by mail, if it is forwarded to the campaign within seven days.

B. LIMITATIONS ON CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

1. CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

In addition to the prohibitions in Section A, certain rules apply specifically to City officials and employees. A City official is an elected City officer or an agency board member, officer, employee, commissioner, or consultant who is required to file a California Form 700. City officials may not engage in political activity in the following situations:

- a. While on duty for the City. LAMC § 49.5.5(B)(1).
- b. In a manner that implies the individual is speaking on behalf of the City or communicating a City position (e.g., wearing a City uniform, wearing City insignia, using a City title, etc.). LAMC § 49.5.5(B)(2).
- c. Using City resources (e.g., equipment, vehicles, supplies, mailing lists, email, electronic data, etc.). LAMC § 49.5.5(B)(4).

City officials and employees may do the following:

- *Endorse a candidate, if it is clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the City.*
- *Perform volunteer or paid campaign work, if they do not use City resources or time.*
- *Make political contributions, subject to applicable limits. (This is prohibited for members of the Ethics Commission.)*

2. CITY COMMISSIONERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

In addition to the prohibitions in Sections A and B.1, City commissioners who are required to file a Form 700 and heads of City departments may not engage in do the following:

- a. **Solicit, direct, or receive a contribution from a person who has had a City matter pending before them in the preceding 12 months. LAMC § 49.7.11(C)(1).**

They may be disqualified from participating in a matter if they have received more than \$250 in campaign contributions from a person interested in the matter. Cal. Gov't Code § 84308.

- b. **Engage in prohibited fundraising on behalf of a City candidate or officeholder. LAMC §§ 49.7.11(A)(2), (C)(2).**