

2019 CPI ADJUSTMENTS

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 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 over three percent for the Los Angeles region between December 2017 and December 2018.

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.

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2019 CPI Adjustments

City Candidates

*These amounts apply to City elections in which the fundraising window for the primary election opens after **March 1, 2019**. They do not apply to LAUSD elections.*

2019 CPI Adjustment	
Mayor	
Per-person Contribution Limit	\$1,500
Per-person Cash Contribution Limit	\$30
Aggregate Limit on Anonymous Contributions	\$200
Aggregate Limit on Non-individual Contributions	\$1,402,800
Limit on Matching Funds Candidate's Use of Personal Funds	\$143,900
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (Primary)	\$3,234,000
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (General)	\$2,585,000
Per-contributor Maximum for Matching Funds Candidates	\$214
Maximum Matching Funds (Primary)	\$1,040,000
Maximum Matching Funds (General)	\$1,247,000
Independent Spending Per Race That Lifts Expenditure Ceiling	\$357,000
City Attorney	
Per-person Contribution Limit	\$1,500
Per-person Cash Contribution Limit	\$30
Aggregate Limit on Anonymous Contributions	\$200
Aggregate Limit on Non-individual Contributions	\$623,400
Limit on Matching Funds Candidate's Use of Personal Funds	\$143,900
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (Primary)	\$1,455,000
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (General)	\$1,131,000
Per-contributor Maximum for Matching Funds Candidate	\$214
Maximum Matching Funds (Primary)	\$468,000
Maximum Matching Funds (General)	\$546,000
Independent Spending Per Race That Lifts Expenditure Ceiling	\$179,000
Controller	
Per-person Contribution Limit	\$1,500
Per-person Cash Contribution Limit	\$30
Aggregate Limit on Anonymous Contributions	\$200
Aggregate Limit on Non-individual Contributions	\$623,400
Limit on Matching Funds Candidate's Use of Personal Funds	\$143,900
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (Primary)	\$1,293,000
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (General)	\$971,000
Per-contributor Maximum for Matching Funds Candidate	\$214
Maximum Matching Funds (Primary)	\$416,000
Maximum Matching Funds (General)	\$468,000
Independent Spending Per Race That Lifts Expenditure Ceiling	\$179,000

City Council	
Per-person Contribution Limit	\$800
Per-person Cash Contribution Limit	\$30
Aggregate Limit on Anonymous Contributions	\$200
Aggregate Limit on Non-individual Contributions	\$233,800
Limit on Matching Funds Candidate's Use of Personal Funds	\$35,900
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (Primary)	\$555,000
Expenditure Ceiling for Matching Funds Candidate (General)	\$462,000
Per-contributor Maximum for Matching Funds Candidate	\$114
Maximum Matching Funds (Primary)	\$156,000
Maximum Matching Funds (General)	\$195,000
Independent Spending Per Race That Lifts Expenditure Ceiling	\$89,000

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