



Town Hall Meeting: Campaign Contributions

May 14, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. | City Hall Room 1035

Background

The Ethics Commission spent a year reviewing the campaign finance laws. On February 19, 2019, after an interested person’s meeting and five public hearings, the Ethics Commission submitted recommendations to the City Council that would ban campaign contributions from and fundraising by all non-individuals and by individuals who are developers. The recommendations can be found in **Council File No. 19-0046**. The Rules Committee asked the Ethics Commission staff to conduct this town hall meeting and collect public comments for their consideration.

Public Comment

Comments may be provided today. Written comments may be submitted to ethics.policy@lacity.org until **May 21, 2019**. Comments may also be made directly to the Rules Committee.

Details

Details about the Ethics Commission’s recommendations are provided below.

Key Campaign Contribution Recommendations	
Recommendation	Proposed Language
Define developers as applicants for discretionary land use entitlements and their principals.	LAMC § 49.7.16(B)(3)
Ban the making and receiving of contributions from non-individuals and individuals who are developers.	LAMC §§ 49.7.37(A), (B)
Ban fundraising and bundling by non-individuals and individuals who are developers, lobbyists, bidders, and contractors.	LAMC §§ 49.7.37(A), (B)
Apply the ban on contributions, fundraising, and bundling by developers from the date a land use entitlement application is filed until 12 months after the later of the date a letter of determination is issued or a certificate of occupancy is issued.	LAMC § 49.7.37(B)(1)(c)(i)
Apply the bans on contributions, fundraising, and bundling to any committee controlled by an elected City official or a candidate for elected City office.	LAMC §§ 49.7.37(A), (B)
Require disclosure about developers through a funded online filing system created by the Ethics Commission.	LAMC § 49.7.38
Prohibit developers who violate the ban on contributions, fundraising, and bundling from being an applicant or principal on a new land use application for 12 months.	LAMC § 49.7.37(C)
Require contributor certifications to include reference to contributions from non-individuals and individuals who are developers.	LAMC § 49.7.16(B)(3)

Current Law				
	Ban on making contribution	Ban on receiving contribution	Ban on fundraising	Ban on bundling
Non-individual				
Developer				
Lobbyist	X	X		
Lobbying Firm	X	X		
Bidder	X		X	
Contractor	X		X	

Recommended Law				
	Ban on making contribution	Ban on receiving contribution	Ban on fundraising	Ban on bundling
Non-individual	X	X	X	X
Developer	X	X	X	X
Lobbyist	X	X	X	X
Lobbying Firm	X	X	X	X
Bidder	X	X	X	X
Contractor	X	X	X	X

Identified in online database.

- Developer** → Applicant or principal in a discretionary land use entitlement with Planning Department.
- Principal** → Property owner.
- Project team member with a substantial interest in the application or the development project, e.g., architect, lobbyist, engineer, attorney, consultant.
 - Subcontractor expected to receive at least \$100,000.
 - Board chair, president, CEO, COO, or functional equivalent of applicant or principal.
 - Individual who owns at least 20% of applicant or principal.
 - Employee of applicant or principal who is authorized to represent applicant or principal before Planning Department.

Contributions from applicants and principals may be cured through the Excess Contribution Policy, which is online at ethics.lacity.org/publications/#campaigns.

The recommendations **DO NOT** include a recusal requirement.