

WHAT'S NEW?

The following key changes to City law are new with the 2020 election cycle. The referenced chapters provide more information.

Contributor Certification

To increase transparency and help candidates report accurate information, all contributors are now required to certify under penalty of perjury to certain information about themselves and their contributions. Please see Chapter 3 for more information about this requirement.

Gift Limit

State law limits the cumulative dollar value of gifts that a candidate may receive from a single source during a calendar year. On January 1, 2019, this limit increased from \$470 to \$500. Please see Chapter 3 for more information on gifts and other contributions.

Committee Contact Information

You must file your "Committee Contact Information" form concurrently with your "Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Receive Contributions." Please see Chapter 2 for more information on disclosure requirements.

Changes to the Public Matching Funds Program

There are several new changes to the public matching funds program, including the following:

- Match Rate: All qualified contributions are now matched at a 6-to-1 rate in both primary and general elections for all qualified candidates.
- Matching Formula: The maximum amount of qualified contributions per-contributor that will be matched has been lowered to one-seventh of the candidate's per-person contribution limit. For the 2020 elections, the maximum that will be matched is \$114.
- Number of Qualifying Contributions: The number of \$5 or more qualifying contributions a candidate must receive from City residents residing in the candidate's council district has been lowered to 100.
- Aggregate Contribution Threshold: The total amount of qualified contributions a candidate must receive to qualify for matching funds has been lowered to \$11,400. This figure is 100 times the maximum amount per-contributor that counts towards this threshold, or 100 individual contributions of \$114.
- Maximum Funding: The maximum funding available to a qualified City Council candidate has been increased and will be periodically adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. For the 2020 elections, the maximum funding is \$151,000 in a primary and \$189,000 in a general.
- Loan Repayment: Candidates who make personal loans to their controlled committees and are subsequently elected to office may not repay the loans from those committees in excess of certain limits.
- Debate Requirement: To qualify, candidates are required to participate in a debate or, if no opponent agrees to debate them, conduct a town hall meeting.

Please see Chapter 4 for more information on the matching funds program.