



**AUGUST 16, 2021
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**CONSIDER ENACTING LOCAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR THE CITY OF
PASADENA, AND DIRECT THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE
AN ORDINANCE WITHIN 60 DAYS TO CODIFY SUCH
DIRECTION IN THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR





BACKGROUND

Office of the Mayor

- On March 8, 2021 – City Council received a “Five Minute Briefing” on Assembly Bill 571 and the State imposed campaign finance limits on local races
 - > Gov’t Code § 85702.5 effective as of January 1, 2021 – Set contributions limits for city candidates at \$4,900 per election
 - > A local agency can adopt by resolution or ordinance a limit that is more or less restrictive; can even set no limit
 - > Local restrictions would be enforced at the local level
- On June 28, 2021 – Council Ad Hoc Committee of Mayor Gordo, Councilmember Madison, and Councilmember Williams met with City Attorney and City Clerk
- The Ad Hoc Committee determined that a local ordinance should be considered by the full City Council



ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Office of the Mayor

Ad Hoc Committee discussed the following three alternatives, with the Committee Recommending Alternative No. 1:

1. Adopt an ordinance that provides that there will be no dollar limits on local campaign finance contributions, which is consistent with what has existed historically in Pasadena prior to AB 571.
2. Adopt an ordinance that sets local campaign finance limits that are different than state limits.
3. Take no action and default to state limits for contributions for city candidates as set by AB 571 (currently \$4,900 per election from a single source).



ALTERNATIVE NO. 1 CONSIDERATIONS

Office of the Mayor

- Reverts back to the campaign contribution practice in place before State law imposed
- All campaign finance disclosure materials posted online and available to the public
- Provides sunshine and transparency regarding individuals that participate financially in Pasadena City Council elections



ALTERNATIVE NO. 2 CONSIDERATIONS

Office of the Mayor

- GC Section 85702.5(c) “The [Fair Political Practices] Commission is not responsible for the administration or enforcement of a contribution limit [adopted by local ordinance or resolution]
- City will need to adopt enforcement standards for violations
- May include administrative, civil, or criminal penalties, as allowed under the law



ALTERNATIVE NO. 3 CONSIDERATIONS

Office of the Mayor

- Take no action: current limit is \$4,900 per election from a single source
- Limit to increase by CPI every year
- Has been in effect since January 1, 2021
- Does not apply to a candidate's contributions to his or her own campaign, recall elections or school district elections



Questions/Comments

Office of the Mayor

