

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: William M. Paparian
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:16 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item 15 City Charter Amendments

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

When the Pasadena Water and Power Department (PWP) announced an average monthly increase of \$14 per month for our electric bills earlier this year, it was less than forthright. In fact, in a February 28, 2023, memo to the City Council Municipal Services Committee, PWP General Manager Sidney Jackson said. "PWP has historically adjusted the PCA infrequently, however, due to heightened market price volatility, going forward the PCA shall be calculated each month and any adjustments from the resulting values shall be automatically implemented on the first day of the following month." In other words, stand by for an increase in your electric bill every month no matter how much you try to conserve as we witnessed this past summer. Mr. Jackson attributed the "heightened market price volatility" to an August 2021 rupture in a gas pipeline from El Paso Texas to California.

The increased costs to generate electricity for us is not the real reason why we will be confronted with the increased costs of electricity. At the February meeting of the City Council Finance Committee, Matthew Hawkesworth Director of Finance reported that the PCA monthly increase of \$14 will result in a \$5 million shortfall in the transfer from the Power Fund to the General Fund for next year. In response to a question from Victor Gordo, Mr. Hawkesworth said the solution will lie in further electric rate increases.

Please consider these issues as you discuss the Annual Light and Power Fund Transfer to be included as a possible topic for a City Charter Amendment.

Very Respectfully,

William Paparian
Former Mayor of Pasadena

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Melissa M.
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:18 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: public comment Agenda #15

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Dear City Council of Pasadena,

Please include a Campaign Finance Reform initiative on the March 2024 ballot, to limit campaign donations to city council and mayoral candidates to level the playing field for future candidates to run for office in Pasadena. Alhambra put one in the City Charter several years ago with a grassroots, resident-instigated initiative that got widespread support through signature-gathering (Measure V). It was later voted over 70% YES by the voters in Alhambra. Now candidates can accept no more than \$250 per person for their campaigns, and it's WORKING FINE! No one has complained, no one complains of legalized corruption amongst the city council candidates anymore. This can be done for Pasadena; **there's no reason to just go by the \$5500 statewide cap.** Alhambra's less than 8 square miles, Pasadena's around 23 square miles, 2.875 times bigger than Alhambra. So why not recommend a 2.875 times \$250 = around \$720 campaign limit.

GET WITH THE REST OF THE AREA, Alhambra and plenty of other local cities, that have updated their campaign finance regulations.

Melissa Michelson

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ellen Finkelpearl
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 9:44 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item 15: Charter Amendment topic: Campaign contribution limits

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Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to include campaign contribution limits for candidates for Mayor and City Council, as one of the topics for research by the Task Force for Charter Reform. The current default state limit of \$5500 per contributor is insanely high for a city the size of Pasadena and favors incumbents and those with contacts to wealthy donors. Other nearby cities, including LA, have set much lower limits, apparently successfully. When the matter was raised in August 2022, some counterintuitive arguments were made—that limits would favor the incumbent (!) and, that with limits in place, funds would be procured anyway through hidden "independent expenditures." As for the first of these, surely lower limits give candidates with a large but less wealthy base a fair chance, and as for the second, there are ways to make those expenditures more public and visible. In any case, these are matters for the Task Force to investigate impartially and thoroughly.

While there are many other issues on the table as possible topics for consideration for Charter Reform, campaign finance impacts all other areas. We need more councilmembers who represent a broader base of the community, and we need councilmembers who will not feel beholden to particularly generous donors and their interests. There is broad community interest in this issue, as demonstrated by the outpouring of outrage last year when the council proposed codifying the tradition of placing no limits on campaign contributions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Finkelpearl

Pasadena

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Sonja Berndt
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark; PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Rivas, Jessica; Hampton, Tyron; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Lyon, Jason; Jones, Justin; Williams, Felicia
Subject: City Council Meeting 9/18/2023: Agenda Item #15

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members:

I urge the Council to include the following topics on the list of topics to be included in the Charter reform process:

- 1) Campaign contribution limits for both the mayor's race and city council member races. We have far too much representation of moneyed special interests in this City. For example, many of you have taken large campaign donations from the Pasadena Police Officers' Association despite the fact that you approve the MOU's of its members. While you publicly state that these campaign donations do not influence your votes, many of our residents do not believe you and they do not trust you. There is the appearance of undue influence when you accept large donations, and this has caused the eroding of public trust especially when it comes to matters involving the Pasadena Police Department. To restore fairness in our local politics, strong campaign finance reforms must be passed, including reasonable campaign contribution limits.
- 2) Compensation for serving on the City Council to include, but not be limited to, the cost of child care related to serving on the Council. This would improve the chances of single parents and residents of different economic means serving on the Council.
- 3) Term limits for the Mayor and Council members.
- 4) Reform Pasadena's City Manager form of governance to exclude the Police Department from the agencies subject to oversight by the City Manager. We need a model with City Council oversight of the Police Department. As Council member Hampton argued during the initial discussions of police oversight three years ago, we need real accountability and transparency when it comes to the Police Department. What we have now is a Police Department that has serious shortcomings discussed at length in the Office of Independent Review's scathing report on PPD's internal investigation of the Anthony McClain killing. Except for Council member Hampton, none of you expressed outrage at PPD's grossly deficient investigation. We need real accountability and transparency to further public trust in PPD, which means holding all of you, our elected leaders, responsible for overseeing the Police Department.

Sonja K. Berndt

Pasadena

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Una Jost
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 9:33 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; efinkelppearl@gmail.com
Subject: Sept. 19, 2023 Pasadena City Council Meeting – Public Comment (Agenda Item 15)
Attachments: 2021-10-19_Open-Letter-to-Pasadena-City-Council-re-Campaign-FinanceReform.pdf

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Councilmembers:

I'm Una Lee Jost, longtime Pasadena resident, PUSD parent, and Public Education advocate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on Agenda Item #15 during which the Council will be finalizing the topics that will be the subject of our City's charter reform process.

You may recall there were a number of residents who submitted public comments about the Council considering adopting unlimited campaign contributions back in October 2021.

This included submission of an October 18, 2023 Open Letter titled

"Open Letter to Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers to lead Pasadena's Fight for a Truly Inclusive Government by Implementing Urgently Needed Campaign Finance Reform."

Written in strong opposition to the Council's proposed ordinance to codify NO limits on campaign contributions, the Open Letter was signed by a growing coalition of:

- over 100 Pasadena residents;
- concerned residents from over a dozen nearby cities; and
- several community groups.

In addition to calling the Council to rescind the Council's August 16, 2021 vote instructing the preparation of an ordinance codifying into law unlimited campaign contributions from donors to city candidates (exploiting a loophole in state law that allows local jurisdictions to circumvent the default state donor limit, which is currently \$4,900 per contributor to city candidates), **the Open Letter signers also called on the Council to:**

"(ii) **PLACE** reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns, in keeping with sensible surrounding cities like Los Angeles, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, as well as dozens of local jurisdictions across Southern California. (For example, Los Angeles with a population of almost 4 million has a \$800 limit as of 2020, in contrast to Pasadena with a population of about 140,000.)"

The Open Letter highlighted, among other items, the importance of the First Amendment of the US Bill of Rights which guarantees every American the right to participate fully in the political process. Likewise, the California Constitution contains individual rights clauses, construed as protecting rights even broader than the US Bill of Rights.

Local city governments such as Pasadena are not immune to the tremendous power of special interest money in politics that often drowns out the voice of everyday Pasadenans, threatening our right to participate fully in the political process, and eroding the foundations of our entire democracy. **In fact, the City of Pasadena is one of the two most unequal cities in California, with unequal representation leading to an ever widening economic divide.**

Nonprofit public interest government reform organizations working to strengthen democracy, such as Campaign Legal Center, Brennan Center, Public Citizen, Common Cause, and California Clean Money Campaign, are all in consensus that in order to restore fairness to our political system, the passing and enforcing of strong campaign finance reforms is urgently needed to help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people, including:

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- placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns;
- complete transparency of campaign spending, and
- public financing of elections.

There are quite a few topics being considered for study as a subject of our City's charter reform process, but campaign finance reform should be included.

Please stand with our families and communities and take the opportunity to include campaign finance reform as a topic for possible City Charter amendments to be studied (including for the purpose of placing reasonable limits on funding of local campaigns in Pasadena, following the lead of dozens of other Southern California cities). Doing so would increase trust in our Pasadena city leaders and candidates and help create a City that is truly more inclusive of everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
~ Una Lee Jost, Resident of Pasadena, District 4

**Open Letter to Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and City Councilmembers
to lead Pasadena's Fight for a Truly Inclusive Government
by Implementing Urgently Needed Campaign Finance Reform**

We, the undersigned local community leaders, advocates, and residents respectfully urge Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and Pasadena's Councilmembers to pass **crucially** needed campaign finance reform to fulfill Mayor Gordo's promise of ensuring Pasadena's "*local city government is responsive...and accountable to residents,*" and exemplifies "*a Pasadena that truly listens, is inclusive of everyone, [and] stands with our families, our seniors, and our youth.*"

Specifically, we call on Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers to:

- (i) **RESCIND** the Council's August 16 vote instructing the preparation of an ordinance codifying into law unlimited campaign contributions from donors to city candidates (exploiting a loophole in state law that allows local jurisdictions to circumvent the default state donor limit, which is currently \$4,900 per contributor to city candidates); and
- (ii) **PLACE** reasonable per-contributor limits on direct funding of local campaigns, in keeping with sensible surrounding cities like Los Angeles, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, as well as dozens of local jurisdictions across Southern California. (For example, Los Angeles with a population of almost 4 million has a \$800 limit as of 2020, in contrast to Pasadena with a population of about 140,000.)

Our request is based on the following:

- The City of Pasadena is one of the two most unequal cities in California, with an ever widening economic divide. Moneyed interests have far too much sway in Pasadena politics, which we believe has led to questionable city policies and unequal representation.
- We are in agreement with the Campaign Legal Center which states:
"The First Amendment guarantees every American the right to participate fully in the political process. It is well-known that the dependence of political candidates on wealthy special interests is a serious flaw in our political system, and makes elected officials responsive to their large donors rather than to the public. The tremendous power of special interest money in politics often drowns out the voice of everyday Americans, threatens our First Amendment freedoms, and erodes the foundations of our entire democracy."
The Center also said that to restore fairness to our political system, the passing and enforcing of strong campaign finance reforms that help guarantee a democracy responsive to the people is urgently needed, including placing reasonable limits on funding of campaigns, complete transparency of campaign spending, and public financing of elections. (Campaign Legal Center 2020; Brennan Center 2018; Public Citizen 2020; Common Cause 2016)
- **It is unreasonable and ethically suspect that any city should have contribution limits higher than that imposed upon state candidates.** The California Legislature adopted state ethics law AB 571 effective January 1, 2021 imposing state contribution limits for state elections as default limits for county and city elections, with the ability for local jurisdictions to establish different limits. The default state limit this year is \$4,900 per contributor to city candidates.
- When given the chance to participate democratically in setting campaign finance limits, citizens are clear that they want limits, and understand the danger of the undue influence of wealthy donors. After a citywide referendum, sister city Alhambra voted overwhelmingly (*by over 76%*) last year to adopt comprehensive campaign finance reform with an inflation-adjusted local campaign contribution limit of \$250 for candidates running in by-district elections. There are other California cities with similar or lower donor limits, which is often based on a municipality's size and electoral format.
- **We are alarmed that Pasadena voted on August 16 to place no dollar limits on local campaign contributions,** with a first reading of the ordinance to be conducted October 18 (and codification effective after two readings).
- **Pasadena City Council is unjustified in claiming contribution limits for state candidates are too low for Pasadena Mayoral and City Council candidates.** Rather, stricter limits would (i) provide incentives to candidates to build a broader base of smaller contributors to be viable; (ii) empower smaller donors as well as expand the pool of potential candidates to include those with no ties to big money thus enabling wider representation among the populace; and (iii) induce greater candidate-constituent interaction and messaging, as opposed to the current practice of blanketing a district with cookie-cutter political mailers.

It's time now for Mayor Victor Gordo and Pasadena Councilmembers to lead the fight for a truly inclusive local city government. We urge you, Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers, to stand with our families and communities in urgently drafting and voting on a municipal ordinance to place reasonable limits per contributor on funding of local campaigns in Pasadena, following the lead of dozens of other Southern California cities. ***Doing so would engender trust in Pasadena city leaders and candidates and help create a City that is truly more inclusive of everyone.***

In Hope for the Welfare of Our City and Nation,

Signed: (by city, in alphabetical order; affiliations noted for identification purposes only)

Residents of Pasadena (134)

Stephen Akuginow, Pasadena resident
Maureen Allen, Pasadena resident
Pat Amsbry, Pasadena resident; Board of Directors & Chair Emeritus, Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
Cheryl Auger, Pasadena resident; President, Ban SUP/Ban SUP Refill
Helen Bacon, Pasadena resident
Edda Suzanne Barber, Pasadena resident
Jude Bautista, Pasadena resident
Diane Becera, Pasadena resident
James Beck, Pasadena resident
Ryan Bell, Pasadena resident; 2020 Pasadena City Council candidate; City Commissioner, Pasadena Northwest Commission; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Sonja Berndt, Pasadena resident
Maryanne Berry, Pasadena resident
Brian Biery, Pasadena Resident
Robert Bilheimer, Pasadena resident
Austin Blodgett, Pasadena resident
Simon Bluestone, Pasadena resident
Colin Bogard, Pasadena resident, Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition
Katherine Breeden, Pasadena resident
Claire Spiegel Brian, Pasadena resident
Tim Brick, Pasadena resident
Robert Bruce, Pasadena resident
Therese Brummel, Pasadena resident; Member, Transition Pasadena
Tasha Busch-Arratia, Pasadena resident
Margaret Cameron, Pasadena resident; Member, West Pasadena Residents Association
Imogene Campbell, Pasadena resident
Cynthia Cannady, Pasadena resident
Allen Cappuccilli, Pasadena resident
Angel Castillo, Pasadena resident; Member, DSA-LA & Pasadena Tenants Union
Mary Cifuentes, Pasadena resident
Bernadette Cole, Pasadena resident
Jennifer Collins, LCSW, Pasadena resident; PUSD parent and Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Ramona Coronado Pasadena resident
Areta Crowell, Pasadena resident
William Denman, Pasadena resident
Julie DiazMartinez, Pasadena resident; Member, Pasadena Foothill Democratic Club
Thomas Dickey, Pasadena resident
William Dickson, Pasadena resident
Luka Dowell, Pasadena resident; Member, Pasadena Tenants' Union
John Doyle, Pasadena resident; PUSD Parent and 2024 Pasadena City Council candidate, District 4; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Kimberly Drake, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; Member, Neighbors of North Raymond
Peter Dreier, Pasadena resident; Pasadenans Organizing for Progress!, Pasadena Tenants Justice Coalition
Christine Echeverri, Pasadena resident
David Erickson, Pasadena resident;
Ellen Finkelppearl, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; Classics Professor; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Tina Fredericks, Pasadena resident; PUSD parent; CA Democratic Party Executive Board/delegate, AD 41
Louis Friedman, Pasadena resident
Betty Garcia, Pasadena resident
Mary (Maddie) Gavel-Briggs, Pasadena resident
Andrew Good, Pasadena resident; Volunteer, Pasadena For All
Sandra B. Greenstein, Pasadena resident
Andrea Davis Griffin, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; Owner, Greenhouse Therapy Center
Emily Gross, Pasadena resident
Erin Gunn, Pasadena resident
Maza Guzmán, Pasadena resident, Green New Now
Gregory Harrison, Pasadena resident; Member, ACT/ADC
Allison Henry, Pasadena resident; San Gabriel Valley Tenants Alliance, Housing Element Task Force member
Gabriela Herrera-Barron, Pasadena resident
Tracy Heverly, Pasadena resident

Helen Hinton, Pasadena resident
Claire Hoffman, Pasadena resident; PUSD teacher
Marcia Homiak, Pasadena resident
Dan Huynh, Pasadena resident
Charles Jacobsen, Pasadena resident; Member, Throop Unitarian Universalist Church
Geoffrey Jost, MLIS, Pasadena resident; Software Developer
Una Lee Jost, Esq., Pasadena resident; PUSD parent and Attorney; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41 (2019-2021)
Laurie Kietzman-Greer, Pasadena resident
Kathryn Kroger, Pasadena resident
Kai Kuwata, Pasadena resident
Wendy Kuwata, Pasadena resident
Bin Lee, Pasadena resident
Claudi Llanos, Pasadena resident
Joanne Long, Pasadena resident; Pasadena For All
Mark Maier, Pasadena resident
Kathleen Mann, Pasadena resident
Anthony Manousos, Pasadena resident; Make Housing and Community Happen Co-Founder
Joshua Marmol, Pasadena resident; PUSD parent; CA Democratic Party delegate alternate, AD 41
Aaron Markowitz, Pasadena resident; Member, Pasadena Tenants Union
Julie Martinez, Pasadena resident
Topher Mathers, Pasadena resident
Liberty McCoy, Pasadena resident; Member, Pasadena Tenants Union
Christy Moision, Pasadena resident; PUSD Parent; Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition
Bradley Moore, Pasadena resident
Sam Morrissey, Pasadena resident
Lambda Moses, Pasadena resident
Emily Moynihan, Pasadena resident
Michael Mueller, Pasadena resident
Stella Murga, Pasadena resident
Kyle Murphy, Pasadena resident
Kaveh Naeeni, Pasadena resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Robert Nelson, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; JPL senior research scientist (ret.); Planetary Science Institute senior scientist; CA Democratic Party Executive Board member (2019-2021) and delegate, AD 41
Bert Newton, Pasadena resident
Gloria Newton, Pasadena resident
Kris Ockershauser, Pasadena resident
John Odell, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; Professor Emeritus, USC; Member, Citizens' Climate Lobby and Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church
Okorie Okorochoa, Pasadena resident
Jane Panangaden, Pasadena resident; Member, Pasadena Tenants Union
Teresa Parsekian, Pasadena resident
Chris Peck, Pasadena resident; President, CM Peck Inc.
Brooke Peterson, Pasadena resident
Mindy Pfeiffer, Pasadena resident; Co-President, Washington Square Neighborhood Association
Nancy Pollock, Pasadena resident
Will Regan, Pasadena resident
Peggy Renner, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Wesley Reutimann, Pasadena resident; Co-organizer, Pasadena Environmental Advocates (PEAs)
Kristin Reutimann, Pasadena resident
Brian Ridley, Pasadena resident
Denise Robb, Ph.D., Pasadena resident; PUSD parent and Political Science Professor
Virginia Robbins, Pasadena resident; Democrat
Brigitte Rooney, Pasadena resident; Member, Pasadena Tenants Union
Adam Rosenkranz, Pasadena resident
Martha Ruffman, Pasadena resident
Jessica Rusk, Pasadena resident
Caryn Sakuda, Pasadena resident
Frank Scoffield, Pasadena resident; Gang Preventionist; Member, Pasadena Mennonite Church; Graduate, Fuller Theological Seminary
Carl Selkin, Pasadena resident; Leadership Team Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center
Candace Seu, Pasadena resident
Steven Sharp, Pasadena resident
Paula Shatsky, Pasadena resident
Donna Sider, Pasadena resident
Alan Siems, Pasadena resident
Bonnie Skolnik, Pasadena resident

John Smallenburg, Pasadena resident, Member, United Teachers of Pasadena
Deborah Smith, Pasadena resident
Tyler Smith, Pasadena resident
David Sniezko, Pasadena resident
Marcy Springer, Pasadena resident
Amanda Steiman, Pasadena resident
Victor Suarez, Pasadena resident
Julie Tannenbaum, Pasadena resident
Roberta Tragarz, Pasadena resident
Mitchell Tsai, Esq., Pasadena resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Richard Valencia, Pasadena resident
Andi Wammack, Pasadena resident; PUSD parent
Beau Wammack, Pasadena resident; PUSD parent
Ruth Wolman, Pasadena resident
Hesham Zaini, Pasadena resident

Friends of Pasadena (52)

Sam Berndt, Altadena resident, JPL engineer, Sunrise Movement Los Angeles Co-Founder, CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Victoria Carbé-Chen, Altadena resident
Steven Gibson, Ph.D., Altadena resident; Scholar/Author, Vice President of Campaigns, Democrats of Pasadena Foothills; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Charlotte Gibson, Altadena resident; Member, Democrats of Pasadena Foothills
Heavenly Hughes, Altadena resident; Executive Director, My TRIBE Rise
Todd Jones, Altadena resident, JPL scientist; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party elected member, AD 41
Julie McKune, Altadena resident; Member, League of Women Voters & POP!; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41 (2019-2021)
Jamie Perlman, Altadena resident
Emily Rogers, Altadena resident
Anne Tipton, Altadena resident
Katie Chan, Alhambra resident; CA Democratic Party Progressive Caucus Secretary; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 49
Gerry Fagoaga, M.F.T., Alhambra resident; Marriage and Family Therapist (ret.); Grassroots Alhambra Co-Founder
Melissa Michelson, Alhambra resident; President, Feel the Bern Democratic Club, Los Angeles; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party elected member, AD49
Efren Moreno, Jr., Alhambra resident; Member, Grassroots Alhambra
Lili Munoz, Alhambra resident
Chris Olson, Alhambra resident; Board member, Grassroots Alhambra
Tatiana Becker, Arcadia resident
Leslie Chang, Arcadia resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 49
Andrea Garcia-Ponce De Leon, Azusa resident; Executive Director, Project Amiga
Denis Recendez, Azusa resident; Member, Democrats of Pasadena Foothills, DSA-LA, and San Gabriel Valley Progressives; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party elected member, AD48
Analisa Swan, Burbank resident
Michael Boos, Claremont resident; Executive Board & Corresponding Secretary, Democratic Club of Claremont; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41 (2019-21)
Susan Castagnetto, Claremont resident, Consumer Advocate; CA Democratic Party alternate delegate, AD 41
Pamela Nagler, Claremont resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41 (2019-21)
Jack Weidner, Claremont resident
Gabriel Ramirez, El Monte resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 49; LA County Democratic Party alternate member, AD49; Member, Feel The Bern Democratic Club Los Angeles
Sean Broadbent, Glendale resident; Co-Chair, DSA-LA Healthcare Justice Committee; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 43
Mike Van Gorder, Glendale resident
Ryan Thompson, Glendora resident
Michael Daurio, Los Angeles resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 53
Lex F., Los Angeles resident
Kate Grodd, Los Angeles resident
Hans Johnson, Los Angeles resident; President, East Area Progressive Democrats (EAPD), with dozens of members in Pasadena;
Noel McCarthy, Los Angeles resident
Jeanine Rohn, Los Angeles resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party delegate, AD 51
Sara D. Roos, Los Angeles resident; Biostatistician/Education Writer; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party elected member, AD 54
Andrea Jacobsen, Los Angeles resident; Community Organizer, LA Voice
Brett Shears, Los Angeles resident; Co-Chair, Pasadenans Empowering Parent Participation in Education Governance (PEPPEG)
Patricia Hernandez, Monrovia resident; Member, DSA-LA
David Ly, Rosemead resident

Lorena Gutierrez, San Gabriel resident
Paul Cole Padilla, San Gabriel resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party elected member, AD49
Sean McMorris, San Gabriel resident; President, Represent.Us San Gabriel Valley-Los Angeles Chapter; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 49
Keith Berman, MPH, MBA, Sierra Madre resident
Gabriel Chen, Sierra Madre resident
Cindy Montoya, Sierra Madre resident; CA State Survivor Lead, Moms Demand Action; CA Democratic Party delegate, AD 41
Rona Bortz, South Pasadena resident
Katie Dempster, South Pasadena resident
Ella Hushagen, South Pasadena resident
David Melford, South Pasadena resident; Member, Rotary
Mona Talamantes, South Pasadena resident
Isaac Lieberman, Valencia resident; CA Democratic Party delegate, LACCC; LA County Democratic Party elected member, AD36

Groups (10)

Ban SUP
Democrats of Pasadena Foothills
East Area Progressive Democrats
Green New Now
Alexander Hamilton Elementary School PTA
Progressive Asian Network for Action
Represent.US, Los Angeles-San Gabriel Valley Chapter
San Gabriel Valley Progressive Alliance
United Democrats of San Gabriel Valley
Urban Ecology Project

Signatory list will be updated on a periodic basis as signatures are added.

For more information, visit the "[Pasadena for Ethics in Politics](#)" Facebook Group.

*** Release Date: 10/18/21**

*** Signatory list last updated: 12/23/21**

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From:
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:25 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc:
Subject: Re: September 18, 2023 Council Agenda Item #15 - Campaign Contribution Limits

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Members of Council-

The State has set a campaign contribution limit of \$5,500 per contributor. Under State provisions, cities are allowed to set their own limits. In 2022, some Council members suggested higher or no limits for candidates seeking office in Pasadena. The public feedback was considerable and the Council decided to drop the issue at that time.

The Council is now considering topics for Charter Amendment. It would be appropriate for the Council to have the appointed Task Force study the issue of candidate contributions, i.e., what other cities have done, what has worked and what would be an appropriate limit for a city our size. Thereafter, Pasadena residents should be given the opportunity to vote on the matter.

Setting limits on campaign contributions is one way to level the significant advantage that wealthy outside entities have over many local stakeholders. Leveling the field in this manner would lead to more equitable representation for Pasadena residents without access to significant means and other under represented constituents, while lessening the impact of corporate entities.

Another related topic that should be studied is whether City Council candidates should be permitted to accept funds from unions representing City employees whose ultimate employers are Council members.

While the Task Force may wind up with a significant number of Charter reform issues to consider, Affordable Housing Services urges the inclusion of campaign finance reform be included in its agenda.

The agenda linked above lays out the procedure and time-line for the Charter Amendment process.

Michelle White
Affordable Housing Services

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I support a Charter Study Task Force.

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Topics: All of the topics proposed in the report should be given full consideration for the task force to research in support of democracy, equity and transparency:

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

- City Council vacancy appointment process
- City Council and Mayor term limits
- Vice Mayor appointment timing and term
- Mayoral election timing in relation to Council District elections
- City Council compensation
- Campaign contribution limits

According to the staff report, the last Charter review was undertaken 25 years ago in 1998. I ask the Council to consider the following additional topic:

- Appointment of a task force no less than once every ten years for the purpose of reviewing the terms and operation of the City Charter. Cities that review their City Charters every decade include Kansas City¹, Portland², Roseville³, and Santa Fe.⁴

Scope: The task force should also have the opportunity to propose topics outside the initial scope and bring them to the City Council for consideration.

Timeline: Given the short timeline and the possible impact of an election year, consideration should be given to permitting a longer time period for the task force to research and propose amendments, and/or stagger possible charter amendments to go on the ballot in later elections.

Selection of Task Force Members: Ideally it would be great that all members have prior charter amendment experience, but it should not be a requirement. The voters of Pasadena will ultimately decide on which amendments to adopt. In addition, consider including more members on the task force. The 1998 task force had 21 members, and other cities like San Jose have more members.⁵

I also look forward to the public having plenty of opportunity along the process for engagement and input through general task force meetings and public forums.

Yadi

Pasadena City Council Meeting
September 18, 2023
15. Charter Study Task Force

¹ <https://www.kcmo.gov/programs-initiatives/charter-review-commission>

² <https://www.portlandmercury.com/election-2022/2022/11/01/46170468/political-group-campaigning-against-city-charter-reform-accuses-city-of-unfairly-supporting-measure>

³ https://www.roseville.ca.us/news/what_s_happening_in_roseville/city_charter_draft_review_report_now_available

⁴ <https://santafenm.gov/news/city-charter-review-commission-seeks-public-comments-on-proposals-to-the-city-charter>

⁵ <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/78531/637699104376430000>

9/18/2023

Item 15

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: John Doyle
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 4:03 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Campaign contribution limits for Mayor and City Council elections

[⚠] CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in support of Campaign Contribution Limits for local elections as a City Council Candidate for District 4. The ability to raise \$200K or contribute \$100K of your own money into your campaign is not a qualification for being a City Council member or having the best interests of the Pasadena community at hand. One can argue it is the exact opposite.

Campaign contributions limits would allow for the younger generation to get more involved in local politics, strengthen the influence of the neighborhood councils in vetting candidates and increase engagement by all constituents who would be more engaged rather than receiving expensive puff pieces in the mail from the candidate with the deepest pockets.

I am running for City Council in District 4 and welcome aggressive campaign contribution limits to increase community engagement with local politics. Get people to start talking to each other again about the local issues that lead to a safer, smarter and cleaner Pasadena for all of its constituents.

Best,

John

--

John Doyle
Doyle for City Council 2024
District 4 - Pasadena, CA

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