



Agenda Report

November 16, 2000

TO: Vice Mayor Crowfoot & Councilmembers
FROM: Mayor Bill Bogaard
SUBJECT: Campaign Finance Regulation

You are aware that an initiative has qualified for the March, 2001 ballot involving a proposed Pasadena Charter amendment entitled "The Pasadena Taxpayer Protection Amendment of 2000", which will be on our December 4 agenda for Council action. The City Attorney has provided advice regarding the effect of this measure and its status under constitutional principles and California statutory provisions. She has indicated that there are a number of legal questions.

The City Council has considered the subject of campaign finance regulation from time to time in recent years, but has deferred action pending the outcome of lengthy litigation. The principal area of dispute at this time is the validity of Proposition 208, which was challenged promptly after voter approval, a few years ago, and no clarification of its legal status has become available.

Perhaps it is time to raise this question once again, and to consider making a proposal for voter consideration next March.

To provide background for this discussion, there are attached the following:

- The draft political reform ordinance developed about two years ago at the suggestion of Councilmember Holden.
- The Good Government and Fair Elections Ordinance of the City of Vista, approved on November 7 by the voters of that community by the favorable vote of 63%.

If the Council wishes to recommend a proposal at this time, the matter should be on our agenda on December 4. Prior to that time, perhaps a special committee of the Council could review the previously developed draft, and to consider the Vista ordinance as well, to formulate a proposal for Council consideration at that time. This is a subject of considerable importance in assuring that elections held in Pasadena are open and fair.

I look forward to our discussion of this matter at Monday's meeting.

Respectfully submitted