



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 18, 2010
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Byron Pope, CMC
City Clerk
Subject: Election Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations on Campaign
Spending and Committee Meeting Notes
Attachments: 1. Election Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Notes

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Delshad appointed Vice Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Brien as the 2011 Election Ad Hoc Committee. The committee met on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 with the City Clerk and City Attorney and has the following recommendations for Council consideration.

DISCUSSION

Voluntary Campaign Spending Limit

- No change is recommended for the voluntary spending limit of \$75,000 (roughly \$3.40 per registered voter)
- Continue same form of public acknowledgement on the sample ballot notation for those candidates who agree to the voluntary spending limit

Contribution Limit

- Increase individual contributions allowable up to a maximum of \$400 per contributor or entity and \$800 per couple for those candidates that accept the voluntary campaign spending limit of \$75,000. For spouses to contribute to candidate campaigns for the aggregate amount of \$800, the following strict stipulations must be adhered to:
 1. must use a **personal** checking account (no business accounts/checks accepted)
 2. both spouses names must be **preprinted/embossed** on the personal check. If only one spouse's name is on the personal check, a letter accompanying the personal check must be provided.
- Individual contributions allowable up to a maximum of \$125 per contributor or entity for those candidates that decline the voluntary campaign spending limit of \$75,000 will remain the same.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks Council concurrence on the recommendations. The above items (the voluntary campaign spending limit, the contribution limits and the aggregate rule) will be drafted and returned for your consideration at the November 4, 2010 Formal City Council Meeting in two parts:

1. An urgency ordinance placed on the consent calendar to take immediate effect to cover the time period of November 15, 2010 (the beginning of the election nomination period) through December 17, 2010 (the proposed date of the regular ordinance becoming effective).
2. A regular ordinance placed on the consent calendar (for introduction – first reading on November 4, 2010 and for adoption – second reading on November 16, 2010 that will go into effect on December 17, 2010).

Byron Pope
Approved By

BP

Attachment 1



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

MEMORANDUM

**CITY COUNCIL ELECTION AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**

October 5, 2010

Attendees: Vice Mayor Barry Brucker
Councilmember William W. Brien, MD
City Attorney Laurence Wiener
City Clerk Byron Pope

City Clerk Pope advised the committee of the surrounding cities of Santa Monica, Culver City and West Hollywood's campaign contribution limits and individual/entity contribution limits. He noted the voluntary candidate campaign spending limit for Beverly Hills was increased \$10,000 to \$70,000 for the March 2009 General Municipal Election. Prior to this increase, the spending limit was \$60,000 in 2007, \$50,000 in 2005 and \$45,000 in 2003.

Vice Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Brien agreed to increase the voluntary campaign spending limit for City Municipal Elections an additional \$5,000 (from \$70,000 to \$75,000).

Vice Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Brien also agreed to increase the campaign contribution limit from up to a maximum of \$300 to \$400 per contributor or entity, and from \$600 to \$800 per couple with the same requirements that are currently in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code regarding aggregate donations.

City Attorney Wiener agreed to explain the need for an urgency ordinance and regular ordinance for these changes, and City Clerk Pope will prepare report for Council consideration.

In response to Councilmember Brien's inquiry, City Clerk Pope noted the nomination filing period dates for the upcoming March 2011 General Municipal Election (Monday, November 15, 2010 – Friday, December 10, 2010). Clerk Pope also acknowledged all incumbents must file by December 10, 2010. If an incumbent does not file, the nomination period deadline will be extended for non-incumbents filers only an additional 5 calendar days (December 15, 2010).

City Clerk Pope advised Vice Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Brien that a meeting will be held after the close of the nomination period (mid December 2010) for them to provide suggestions on various areas of the election process (City sponsored Candidate Forums, public election/outreach, candidate commercial for the website and cable television).