

Supplementing the Pittsburgh Code, Title One, Administrative, by adding a new section, Article XIII, entitled, “Campaign Finance Regulations.”

The Pittsburgh Code, Title One, Administrative, is hereby supplemented by adding a new section, Article XIII, entitled, “Campaign Finance Regulations,” as follows:

Chapter 200: Campaign Finance Regulations

§200.01 Definitions

For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Candidate

(a) An individual who files nomination papers or petitions for City elective office.

(b) An individual who publicly announces his or her candidacy for City elective office.

(2) Candidate Political Committee.

The one political committee used by a candidate to receive all contributions and make all expenditures as required by §200.03.

(3) City elective office

The offices of Mayor, City Controller, or City Council.

(4) Contribution

Money, gifts, forgiveness of debts, loans, or things having a monetary value incurred or received by a candidate or his/her agent for use in advocating or influencing the election of the candidate.

(5) Covered election

Every primary, general or special election for City elective office.

(6) Excess pre-candidacy contributions

The amount of a person or committee’s pre-candidacy contributions to a particular political committee that, had the contributions been made to a candidate for elective City office, would have been in excess of the contribution limitations set forth in subsections §200.02(1) or §200.02(2).

(7) Expenditure

The payment, distribution, loan or advancement of money or any valuable thing by a candidate, political committee or other person for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a covered election.

(8) Person

An individual, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, or other form of business organization permitted under the laws of the Commonwealth to make political contributions.

(9) Political Committee

Any committee, club, association, political party, or other group of persons, including the candidate political committee of a candidate for office in a covered election, which receives contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a covered election.

(10) Pre-candidacy contribution

A contribution made to a political committee that: (a) has been transferred to, or otherwise becomes available for expenditure by, a candidate for City elective office; and (b) was made before such candidate became a candidate.

§200.02 Contribution Limitations

(1) Except as provided in subsection (6), no individual shall make total contributions per calendar year, including contributions made to or through one or more political committees, of more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to a candidate for a City elective office.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (6), no person, other than individuals who are covered under §200.02(1), and no political committee shall make total contributions per calendar year of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to a candidate for a City elective office.

(3) During those calendar years in which a covered election is not occurring, candidates shall be limited in receiving political committee contributions as follows:

(i) candidates for Mayor may receive political committee contributions totaling no more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) per year;

(ii) candidates for City Controller may receive political committee contributions totaling no more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year;

(iii) candidates for City Council, may receive political committee contributions totaling no more than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year.

(4) No candidate may spend any excess pre-candidacy contributions for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a covered election in which he or she is a candidate, nor may any candidate political committee spend any excess pre-candidacy contributions for such purpose, including, but not limited to, the purpose of paying any expenses of such candidate political committee.

(5) A pre-candidacy contribution made in the same calendar year that a person becomes a candidate shall count toward the limitations on contributions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(6) The limitations imposed by this Chapter shall not apply to contributions from a candidate's personal resources to the candidate's political committee. However, if such contributions total \$250,000 or more (regardless of the time period over which such contributions are made), then the contribution limits set forth in this Section for all other candidates for that City elective office shall double.

(7) The limitations imposed by this subsection shall not apply to volunteer

labor.

(8) No candidate for City elective office, and no political committee, shall accept any contribution which exceeds the contribution limits set forth in this Chapter.

§200.03 Candidate Political Committee Accounts

A candidate for City elective office shall have no more than one political committee and one checking account for the city office being sought, into which all contributions for such office shall be made, and out of which all expenditures for that office shall be made. If the candidate for office maintains other political or non-political accounts for which contributions are solicited, such funds collected in these accounts shall not be used for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a covered election

§200.04 Competitive Bidding

Any person who makes a maximum contribution during an election cycle may not be awarded a contract relating to City affairs, without going through a competitive bidding process.

§200.05 Injunctive Relief

Any person residing in the City of Pittsburgh, including the City Solicitor may bring an action for injunctive relief in any Court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violations of, or to compel compliance with, the provisions of this Chapter. The Court may award to a prevailing plaintiff in any such action his or her costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

§200.06 Public Record of Reports

All campaign finance reports that are submitted to the City Controller's office shall be made available to the public online by the City Controller.

§200.07 Required Notice of Contribution Limits

The Ethics Hearing Board shall, at least every six months, arrange for the publication in the three newspapers with the largest circulation in the City and in such other newspapers as the Board shall determine, of a notice setting forth the contribution limits set forth in this Chapter, together with a plain English explanation of the provisions of this Chapter and the penalties and remedies for violations. Such notice shall also appear at all times on the City's official website.

§200.08 Penalties

The provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Hearing Board, including, but not limited to, the Board's powers and duties

relating to education, training, issuance of advisory opinions, receipt of complaints, investigations, referral, and adjudication.

§200.09 Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void, or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall be in full force and effect.

§200.10 Effective Date; Implementation

(1) This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after it becomes law.

(2) The first public notice required by §200.06 shall be published within thirty (30) days after this Ordinance takes effect.