
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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**CITY ETHICS COMMISSION APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS
TO STRENGTHEN CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS**

At its meeting yesterday, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission unanimously approved a comprehensive set of recommendations to strengthen the City's campaign finance laws. This was the first comprehensive review of the laws since they were originally adopted in 1990. The review was conducted in the wake of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 50 (2010), which struck down key components of Arizona's matching funds program.

"The people of Los Angeles want and deserve a transparent and accessible system of elections," said Commission President Paul Turner. "This is more important than ever in the era of *Citizens United*."

Over the course of seven months, the Ethics Commission carefully considered the purposes of the City's campaign finance laws, the current constitutional landscape, practices in other jurisdictions, relevant state regulations, data from City elections over the last 20 years, and input from the public and regulated communities.

Many of the key recommendations affect the matching funds program, which provides limited public money to help qualified candidates run their campaigns for City office. Recommended changes to that program include increasing the rate at which matching funds are paid to candidates and eliminating trigger provisions similar to those that were struck down by *Citizens United*. Additional recommendations would become effective for the 2015 elections, including requiring qualifying and matched contributions to come from individuals who reside in the City and requiring City Council candidates to collect at least 200 contributions of \$5 or more from district residents.

Other recommendations help to increase transparency and accountability by addressing issues such as disclaimers on political communications, disclosure of independent expenditure communications, text message contributions, social media accounts, filing methods and schedules, and liability for violations of the laws. The complete set of recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council, which must approve any changes to City ordinances.

The City Ethics Commission was created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the City's governmental ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying laws.