
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
N E W S
...preserving the public trust

For Immediate Release: April 5, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Bravo (213) 978-1960

**ETHICS COMMISSION VOTES TO STRENGTHEN
THE PUBLIC MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM**

At its regular meeting today, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission voted on a number of recommendations to strengthen the City's public matching funds program, which provides limited public financing to City candidates who meet certain qualification requirements.

The Commission voted to recommend providing public funds at a faster four-to-one rate and to remove trigger provisions to comply with the United States Supreme Court decision in *Arizona Free Enterprise Club's Freedom PAC v. Bennett*. The Commission also voted to recommend a qualification requirement that candidates have at least one opponent who has been certified by the City Clerk to appear on the ballot, to amend the number of days within which matching funds claims must be processed, and to require matching funds claims to be submitted in an electronic format. These recommendations may apply to the 2013 City elections but require City Council action to become effective. The recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council once the Commission's review of the campaign finance laws has been completed.

The Commission also voted, in compliance with Los Angeles City Charter section 702(h), to adjust the voluntary limits on personal contributions and overall campaign spending for matching funds participants based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. These adjustments are effective immediately. The personal contribution limits increased from \$25,000 to \$31,100 for participating City Council candidates and from \$100,000 to \$124,500 for participating Citywide candidates. The voluntary expenditure ceilings for participating candidates increased to the following amounts:

City Council candidates:	\$480,000 in a primary and \$400,000 in a general
Controller candidates:	\$1,119,000 in a primary and \$840,000 in a general
City Attorney candidates:	\$1,259,000 in a primary and \$979,000 in a general
Mayor candidates:	\$2,798,000 in a primary and \$2,237,000 in a general

The Ethics Commission will continue its review of the campaign finance laws for the next few months. Recommendations regarding other provisions of the matching funds program, as well as officeholder accounts, disclosure, and enforcement will be discussed at future meetings. Meeting agendas and staff recommendations are available on the Commission's web site.

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