

Public Comments

Agenda Item #7



March 22, 2021
City Council Meeting

FW: Regarding Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 1:35 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: Deirdre Martin [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 1:35 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Regarding Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

[CAUTION: External Email]

Re: Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

I respectfully recommend the alternate action option of taking "no action and staff will continue to collect and publish in accordance with those requirements" (of Ordinance 820).

In a time when truthful information is becoming harder and harder to distinguish, Ordinance 820 provides campaign contribution transparency that is hard to access for most citizens. I believe the publication requirements for campaign contributions required by City Ordinance 820 supplies the truth and clarity that our community craves.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Be Well,
Deirdre Martin
Concerned Citizen

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FW: Fair Political Practices Laws/Conflict of Interest

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 2:28 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: Vicki Sundstrom [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 1:06 PM

To: Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Fair Political Practices Laws/Conflict of Interest

[CAUTION: External Email]

Hello Mr. Woodhouse,

I wasn't sure where to address this, given there is usually a separate ethics body within municipalities. Please let me know if this should be addressed to someone else within the City of Pacifica, or something that needs to be dealt with at the State level.

I noticed an agenda item on today's calendar about "Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections", a topic rooted in political ethics and conflict of interest. There have been numerous conversations online about a biased City Council - specifically a council vested in real estate interests.

Given the item on today's agenda, I was wondering how often city elected officials and staff get training and refreshers on the relevant laws and recusal process. In my years as a civil servant with the City and County of San Francisco, training took place annually, so did any compliance requirements related to the Fair Political Practices Act/Laws. Specifically, I declared any conflicts, potential conflicts and was not involved in processes should conflict be an issue.

I've shared some resources(links below), the video is specific to the state of California and clearly within the first minute and half covers the concerns Pacificans have about City Council. Given the number of real estate related issues currently on hand, it seems prudent to discuss conflict of interest with staff and council members and the process to recuse themselves.

<https://youtu.be/Fp4vqAOVOcs>

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/conflicts-of-interest-rules.html>

None of this should really be a surprise as the laws have been around for decades and practiced world over. Frankly, this all calls into question all issues voted on, from what I understand, Council members have voted on development related projects.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the training on the programs & process of recusal. Beyond that, I suspect an audit would have to be conducted - by the State or an unbiased 3rd party?

Respectfully,

Vicki Sundstrom

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FW: campaign contributions

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 2:28 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: ana garcia [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 2:28 PM

To: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: campaign contributions

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to encourage you NOT to change ordinance 820 around campaign contributions. Community members worked hard for this, and there is no good reason to obscure campaign contributions. Do aCut Council candidates have something to hide? Any attempt to do so is disingenuous, shady, and suggests attempts to mislead Pacifica constituents

Show your support of free and fair elections, and democracy itself, by keeping campaign contributions transparent.

Thank you,

Ana Garcia

Pacifica resident

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FW: Ordinance O.820

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 2:43 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Debora Kane [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 2:38 PM

To: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Ordinance O.820

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Pacifica City Clerk,

As a Pacifica resident for 20+ years, I would like to know the source of campaign contributions and I urge you to not rescind the 2017 Ordinance O.0820.

Thank-you

Debora Kane

Sent from my iPad

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For Consideration: Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Claudia de Luna [REDACTED]

Mon 3/22/2021 3:10 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

Complete transparency with regard to campaign contributions for our candidates is an essential part of our government.

Any move to obfuscate the origin and amount of campaign contributions to our candidates is a move away from democracy and everything our government stands for. It calls into question why something like this would be undertaken. What is being hidden?

I urge my City Council to take no action which reduces this transparency and would applaud any move to increase the collection and easy availability of contribution data for each and every citizen and voter.

Thank You,

Claudia de Luna
Pacifica Resident and Homeowner

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FW: Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:14 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: Karen Clark [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 2:46 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

[CAUTION: External Email]

I respectfully recommend the **alternate action option of taking "no action and staff will continue to collect and publish in accordance with those requirements"** (of Ordinance 820).

In a time when truthful information is becoming harder and harder to distinguish, Ordinance 820 provides campaign contribution transparency that is hard to access for most citizens. I believe the publication requirements for campaign contributions required by City Ordinance 820 supplies the truth and clarity that our community craves.

Access to that information helps inform voters which is necessary for us to be a true democracy.

Sincerely,
Karen Clark

[REDACTED]
Linda Mar

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FW: Tonight's Mtg Agenda Item 7, do not promote the possibility of illegal campaign contributions

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:14 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: myrna@bioexp.com [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 2:56 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: deirdre finnegan [REDACTED]

Subject: Tonight's Mtg Agenda Item 7, do not promote the possibility of illegal campaign contributions

Importance: High

[CAUTION: External Email]

Attention: City Council, City Manager, and City Clerk

This is regarding tonight's Agenda Item #7 on Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

For **Ordinance O.820** I ask that you **Take No Action and Keep the current requirements as is. No Changes.**

In 2017 Pacificans worked hard and voted for greater transparency for monitoring campaign contributions in the local elections.

The fact that this is a matter for debate is appalling as it means some one of you may be considering rescinding much-needed transparency in our local elections. This is Not Alright. Get Real!

Do not make this change or definitely risk not getting elected next time around.

Pacifica citizenry Is watching!

And Best Wishes and All Support to those of you who see the evil in going down such a path.

I hope this makes a difference.

Myrna

Developing Content for the Biotech Community

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FW: Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:16 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Dawn Summers [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:02 PM

To: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

[CAUTION: External Email]

City Clerk :

I am surprised and disturbed to know that our city is considering rescinding anything which provides transparency for our local democracy. I respectfully recommend the alternate action option of taking "no action and staff will continue to collect and publish in accordance with those requirements" (of Ordinance 820).

In a time when truthful information is becoming harder and harder to distinguish, Ordinance 820 provides campaign contribution transparency that is hard to access for most citizens. I believe the publication requirements for campaign contributions required by City Ordinance 820 supplies the truth and clarity that our community craves.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Dawn Summers
[REDACTED]

Pacifica, CA 94044

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FW: Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:17 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: Misha Flores [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:05 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

[CAUTION: External Email]

Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

I respectfully recommend the alternate action option of taking "no action and staff will continue to collect and publish in accordance with those requirements" (of Ordinance 820).

In a time when truthful information is becoming harder and harder to distinguish, Ordinance 820 is absolutely necessary. I believe the publication requirements for campaign contributions required by City Ordinance 820 supply the truth and clarity that our community needs.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Misha Flores
Concerned Citizen

--

Misha Flores
Artist
SF Bay Area
mishaflores.com

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FW: Election Campaign Transparency

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:21 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: Jack Coots [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:19 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Election Campaign Transparency

[CAUTION: External Email]

Honorable Council Members,

I urge you to take no actions that would rescind or weaken City Ordinance 0.820 that was passed to provide us with accurate information regarding the sources and amounts of campaign contributions in our elections. It is essential to a free and open democratic process that we have access to that information.

Thank you for supporting democracy in Pacifica,

Jack Coots

Pacifica

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FW: City Council Agenda Item #7, Campaign Contribution Limits, Disclosure and Reporting - Please continue PUBLISHING in the Pacifica Tribune

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:27 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

From: Cindy Abbott [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:23 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: City Council Agenda Item #7, Campaign Contribution Limits, Disclosure and Reporting - Please continue PUBLISHING in the Pacifica Tribune

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Pacifica City Council, City Manager and City Clerk,
I'm writing you today to request the ongoing practice of public disclosure of campaign contributions that are **PUBLISHED** in our local newspaper of record, the Pacifica Tribune. It would be a disservice to the public to eliminate the posting of this data in an easy to access format (even if it seems redundant or a dated mechanism with print) in addition to other virtual locations that are required by law.

As part of the council's continued goal for "An Engaged Community" that includes taking actions to restore trust in city government, expanding communication, and building community," it's my belief that eliminating the posting in the Pacifica Tribune would be a significant step backwards. The minimal cost and staff time that are provided for in Ordinance 820 should continue.

I recommend the alternate action of: taking no action and ***staff will continue to collect and publish in accordance with those requirements (of Ordinance 820).***

Thank you for taking this request into consideration as you deliberate this issue tonight.

Regards,

Cindy Abbott

West Sharp Park

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March 22 2020 Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Cherie Chan [REDACTED]

Mon 3/22/2021 3:42 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Council Members,

Regarding Agenda Item #7:

Ordinance 820 provides campaign contribution transparency which is critical to a functioning democracy, and supports those of us who have chosen a career in public service to provide unbiased, fact-related analysis. It empowers citizens to discern the loyalties, obligations, and perspectives of our elected officials. I believe that our Councilmembers have taken on this responsibility to serve their communities and its people, and not special moneyed interests. If you believe this too, I urge you to adopt the following votes:

Part 1:

c. Option C - Draft an Ordinance for consideration to establish a campaign contribution limit ~~different from~~ **lower than** the State limits, establish **stringent** enforcement standards for violation of limits and provide direction regarding the amount of the limit desired by Council **not to exceed state limits, which would be more appropriate for larger cities, not a small town like Pacifica.**

and

Part 2

Option B - Draft an Ordinance to mandate electronic filing of Campaign Disclosure Statements consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 84615;

Thank you for your service to our community. I believe you are here to make this town and community better for all Pacificans, present and future.

--

Cherie Chan
[REDACTED]

--

Cherie Chan
[REDACTED]

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March 22 2020 Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Cherie Chan [REDACTED]

Mon 3/22/2021 4:07 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Councilmembers

Due to a statement by your fellow councilmember, I find it necessary to submit a second set of comments to ensure my words are not further misconstrued.

Most critically, **please do not rescind the original 2017 Ordinance**: doing so would eliminate a key provision: ***that the city clerk prepare a summary of election contributions and publish it on the city webpage*** and in the local newspaper.

Councilmembers, as you ***well-know, discerning reams of "publicly available" information is possible, but it is not helpful, nor is it easy.*** Often, in government, the devil is in the details: before the 2017 ordinance, these reports were so long and such a mess that very few people could sort through to get the big picture of what is happening with campaign contributions easily seen in the official summary.

So please, if you have nothing to hid, please vote for transparency and honest government and also vote for

3: Option C - take no further action and continue to apply the publication provisions imposed by Ordinance 820-C.S.

Thank you.

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 3:45 PM Vaterlaus, Sue <vaterlauss@ci.pacifica.ca.us> wrote:

This is not hiding anything or removing any information. All contribution forms are available on the city web site as well as for in person viewing. Basically as i see it , only the publication in a newspaper is removed. That has been difficult to accomplish and an expense. We will also now be allowed to submit firms electronically which will make them even more accessible.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Cherie Chan [REDACTED]

Date: 3/22/21 3:42 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>, _City Council Group

<CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>, "Woodhouse, Kevin" <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: March 22 2020 Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Council Members,

Regarding Agenda Item #7:

Ordinance 820 provides campaign contribution transparency which is critical to a functioning democracy, and supports those of us who have chosen a career in public service to provide unbiased, fact-related analysis. It empowers citizens to discern the loyalties, obligations, and perspectives of our elected officials. I believe that our Councilmembers have taken on this responsibility to serve their communities and its people, and not special moneyed interests. If you believe this too, I urge you to adopt the following votes:

Part 1:

c. Option C - Draft an Ordinance for consideration to establish a campaign contribution limit ~~different from~~ **lower than** the State limits, establish **stringent** enforcement standards for violation of limits and provide direction regarding the amount of the limit desired by Council **not to exceed state limits, which would be more appropriate for larger cities, not a small town like Pacifica.**

and

Part 2

Option B - Draft an Ordinance to mandate electronic filing of Campaign Disclosure Statements consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 84615;

Thank you for your service to our community. I believe you are here to make this town and community better for all Pacificans, present and future.

--

Cherie Chan


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Cherie Chan


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Cherie Chan


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FW: Council meeting tonight, Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:48 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Chaya Gordon [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:38 PM

To: _City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <woodhousek@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Council meeting tonight, Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Councilmembers:

I urge you to support the option of alternate action, which is for the Council to take no action and have staff continue to collect and publish campaign contributions as required by Ordinance 820.

We need campaign contribution transparency in Pacifica. The publication requirements for campaign contributions required by City Ordinance 820 are a democratic step to provide the truth for our community. It does not benefit Pacificans to take this away.

Thank you very much.

Chaya Gordon

Pacifica

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Item # 7 City Council Meeting for March 22, 2021

Delia McGrath [REDACTED]

Mon 3/22/2021 3:49 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Delia McGrath [REDACTED]

[CAUTION: External Email]

Re: Agenda Item #7 - Campaign Contribution Limits and Reporting and Disclosure Regulations in Local Elections

Dear members of Pacifica City Council,

In 2017, I participated in promoting Ordinance 820, adopted by then City Council, for the stated purpose that we need greater and greater transparency in local elections. As you are well aware, we Pacifica voters want to know what industries, what local and non-local donors and anyone else might be financially supporting various candidates. This is absolutely necessary for us to make informed decisions about who we want to elect. Our City Council officials must be accountable to all of us if we are ever to get fair and equitable policies in our town.

Therefore, I recommend the "alternate action option" and that you take no action and that staff continue to collect and publish in accordance with the requirements of Ordinance 820.

Thank you for your consideration of my input into your decision on Item #7 tonight.

Peace always, Delia McGrath, 43 years a resident of Pacifica [homeowner]

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City Council Agenda Item 7, 3.22.21

Christine Boles [REDACTED]

Mon 3/22/2021 3:58 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

So many Pacificans, myself included, are already questioning what appears to be the bias of some of our public servants in favor of developers and the real estate industry. It is important for citizens to not only understand where campaign contributions over \$500 are coming from, but also how other gifts as innocuous as a free glass of wine, might factor into decision making. Reporting of these gifts and campaign contributions is essential to maintain transparency and public trust.

I respectfully recommend the alternate action option of taking "no action and staff will continue to collect and publish in accordance with those requirements" (of Ordinance 820).

Ordinance 820 provides campaign contribution transparency that is hard for most of us to access. I believe the publication requirements for campaign contributions required by City Ordinance 820 supplies the truth and clarity that our community craves.

Thank you for listening,

Christine Boles, Architect

Beausoleil Architects

[REDACTED]

Pacifica, CA 94044

[REDACTED]

www.beausoleil-architects.com

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

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