

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 13, 2004

SUBJECT: CAMPAIGN FINANCE ORDINANCE

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board direct County Counsel, working with the Center for Governmental Studies, prepare a campaign finance ordinance for County elected offices and place this draft measure on the Board's agenda in 45 days for further discussion and action.

Among the major provisions which should be considered in the new ordinance are: contribution limits including loans; voluntary spending ceilings; additional disclosure; controls on transfers from non-county campaign accounts and between office holders and candidates; independent expenditures; fundraising time restrictions; limits on office holder accounts; appropriate differences between district and countywide campaigns; COLA adjustments; enforcement, auditing and periodic ordinance review.

BACKGROUND: Over 100 cities and counties in California go beyond the requirements of the State's Political Reform Act with additional local campaign finance controls. Balanced ordinances, appropriate to local situations, have proved effective in achieving a number of important public policy objectives:

- To lower or slow the rise in campaign spending;
- To decrease the time candidates spend on fundraising and increase the time spent on policy and legislation;
- To decrease the perception that local officials are unduly influenced by large contributors with financial or other interests in pending governmental actions;
- To increase competition between candidates for local office;
- To increase the involvement of individual citizens in campaigns;
- To offer all individuals and interest groups regardless of wealth a fair and equal opportunity to participate in local electoral and legislative processes; and
- To restore or enhance public confidence in local governmental institutions.

Riverside County must not continue to run the risk that the growth in campaign contributions and spending here will undermine these goals. Enacting an ordinance is important now. The Center for Governmental Studies is the foremost authority on campaign finance in California. It's President, Bob Stern, was co-author of the 1974 Political Reform Act (Prop. 9) and former General Counsel, California Fair Political Practices Commission. Mr. Stern has offered the Center's resources to assist Riverside County in framing an appropriate ordinance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Buster".

BOB BUSTER
1ST DISTRICT

3.69

Eleven Years of Reform:

Many Successes—More to be Done

Campaign Financing
in the City of Los Angeles



a report by the
Center for Governmental Studies

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