

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



FROM: Supervisor Benoit

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Initiation of Riverside County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt an order initiating an ordinance that would require online electronic filing of campaign statements and impose additional online reporting requirements, as further described below; and
2. Invite the Registrar of Voters to work collaboratively with County Counsel to prepare and process the ordinance.

BACKGROUND: (Commences on page 2)


JOHN J. BENOIT
 Fourth District Supervisor

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2010/11

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dep't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** | **Agenda Number:**

3.3

BACKGROUND:

State law requires candidates, persons supporting or opposing ballot measures and certain other types of committees to file campaign finance statements with the Registrar of Voters detailing the sources of contributions and manner of expenditure of contributions. The purpose of these laws is to assist voters in making informed electoral decisions and to assist in ensuring compliance with campaign laws. Frequently, these disclosure reports are extremely lengthy. Moreover, literally hundreds of such reports are filed with the Registrar of Voters office each reporting period. It is extremely difficult for members of the public, the media and election officials to efficiently review and compare these statements. Requiring political committees and candidates which meet certain financial thresholds to file copies of their campaign statements electronically online will further the purposes of campaign finance disclosure laws. These statements can then be placed online for public viewing.

The proposed ordinance would also impose additional online disclosure of contributions similar to what is required of a candidate for elective state office pursuant to Government Code § 85309.

FINANCIAL DATA:

It will cost approximately \$15,000 to prepare and process the ordinance. The costs of implementing and enforcing the ordinance will be a minimal amount considering the ordinance is mandating electronic online filing of paper documents that are already and will continue to be filed in the Registrar of Voters office. This ordinance will provide a cost savings by reducing staff time spent processing paper filings. The County will completely recover the initial costs of processing this ordinance after two election cycles for County officials. Further savings will be realized in subsequent election cycles.