

Ballot Title
Honest Elections Clean Governance Charter Amendment

Caption

Amends County Charter; Limits Campaign Contributions, Expenditures; Communications Identify Funders.

Question

Should County Charter be amended to limit campaign contributions and expenditures and require that campaign communications identify major contributors?

Summary

Restricts contributions and expenditures to support or oppose candidates for public office in Multnomah County elections. Limits: contributions by individuals (\$500.00), political committees (\$500.00). Limits: independent expenditures to \$5,000.00 per year; candidate self-funding of campaigns. Prohibits loans by candidate. Requires group, association, or entity making an expenditure seeking to influence candidate election to register as political committee and requires name of political committee to clearly identify economic or other interests of dominant contributors. Allows formation of "Small Donor Committees" which may contribute all amounts received from individuals of \$100.00 or less per year. Requires that each communication to voters disclose names of all political committees and entities, their funders, including the top five dominant contributors or spenders and their businesses. Requires both printed and online voter's pamphlet to include list of 5 dominant contributors for each candidate identified by name, type of business from which each contributor obtained majority of income, amount contributed to candidate. Administered; enforced by County Auditor. Provides penalties if violated. Allows for adjustments; severability if constitutional challenge successful.

Explanatory Statement

This Measure would amend Multnomah County Charter to impose limitations on campaign contributions and expenditures to support or oppose candidates in Multnomah County Elections for any election as follows: Limit contributions to any candidate committee or political committee to \$500.00 per individual, \$500.00 per political committee other than small donor committee.

Allow formation of "small donor committees" subset of political committee for sole purpose of influencing outcome of Multnomah County Candidate Elections, which may accept contributions from individuals only and contributions are limited to maximum \$100.00 per individual per year. A "Small Donor Committee" may contribute any amounts to candidate committees, political committees, and political parties.

Limit expenditures by candidate committee, political committee, political party or small donor committee to support or oppose candidate in a Multnomah County Candidate Election to funds collected in accordance with the contribution limits specified above.

Establishes that a coordinated expenditure constitutes both a contribution to and expenditure by the relevant coordinated entity. Establishes judicial process for candidate or political party to seek determination that an expenditure is a coordinated expenditure. Defines "independent expenditure" as an expenditure to influence the outcome of a Candidate election that is not made by the candidate's committee and that is not a coordinated expenditure. Requires any group, association or entity that makes an independent expenditure seeking to influence a candidate election to register as a political committee. Limits independent expenditures that seek to influence the outcome of a Multnomah County Candidate Election as follows: An individual in any calendar year an aggregate of not more than \$5,000; a political committee in any calendar year an aggregate of not more than \$10,000 provided funding is by means of contributions by individuals of no more than \$500.00 per year; prohibits any individual under 18 years of age from making any independent expenditure.

Limits candidate personal contributions to the candidate's own committee during any election period to \$20,000 plus 50% of an amount equal to the largest sum for any other Candidate for the same public office in the same contest received from (A) dominant contributors

plus (B) independent expenditures benefitting the other candidate by dominant independent spenders. Requires candidate to report contributions to the candidate's own committee and prohibits a candidate from making a loan to candidate's own campaign.

Requires timely and current disclosure of contributions and expenditures, requires publication in Voters' Pamphlet of top 5 contributors to each candidate to include name, types of businesses from which majority of income is obtained; amount contributed to candidate since the most recent biennial election.

Provides for administration and enforcement by the Multnomah County Auditor, and by civil actions against alleged violators. Any civil penalties imposed are payable to Multnomah County.

Includes Severability Clause to preserve operation of constitutionally valid elements of this Measure should any portion of the Charter Amendment be judicially determined to be unconstitutional.