

10-0127-S2

MOTION

The city's existing campaign finance law prohibits candidates from doing any fundraising for a campaign committee nine months after the date of the election for which the committee was formed (LAMC Section 49.7.7(B)).

In the nine-month period following an election, candidates controlling such committees may raise funds for debt retirement only, except to the extent prohibited by Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 49.7.6 and 49.7.12

The policy, previously allowed for administrative extensions of the fundraising window, but the current version of the prohibition does not consider or accommodate circumstances beyond the control of candidates whose committees may hold debt.

In light of recent allegations of misappropriation of campaign funds against a well-known political treasurer, several candidates for municipal office may have been impeded in their ability to retire debt within the nine month period. Although they potentially were direct or indirect victims of crimes, such candidates have no recourse under current policy.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council REQUEST that the City Ethics Commission consider and report to Council in 30 days regarding potential administrative action or actions to allow an extension of the fundraising window for committees that may have been affected by the recent investigations and surrounding circumstances.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council REQUEST that the City Ethics Commission consider and report to Council on the following items when it brings forward its planned comprehensive campaign finance reform recommendations:

- (1) The rationale for the city's ordinance prohibiting fundraising for committees nine months after the date of the election for which they were formed and an assessment of that policy; and
- (2) Recommendations for revisions to that ordinance to grant the City Ethics Commission greater flexibility to deal with a rapidly changing political landscape and extenuating circumstances.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
 PAUL KREKORIAN
 Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Joit/vis

NOV 29 2011

ORIGINAL