

## Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Studio City Neighborhood Council

Name: Patrick Lewis

Phone Number: (818) 588-0068

Email: Plewis@studiocitync.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/20/2018

Type of NC Board Action: **Against** unless amended.

## Impact Information

Date: 09/20/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Mayor and City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 12-1269-S5 and 15-1088-S1

Agenda Date: September 20, 2018

Item Number: 10.

Summary: Studio City Meeting Agenda item 10, 09/20/2018:

The Studio City Neighborhood Council is supportive of some of the Ethics Commission's Recommendations, but since the City Council may only approve or disapprove the ordinance and cannot amend it, we ask that the council **disapprove** of the recommendations and direct the Ethics commission to consider the following revisions:

- 1) Remove the threshold requirements to receive minimum amounts of qualified contributions, depending on the office sought (\$25,000 for City Council; \$75,000 for Controller or City Attorney; \$150,000 for Mayor).
- 2) Amend LAMC 49.7.22 - 49.7.30, LAAC 24.31 et seq. to clarify that qualifying ballot signatures shall be considered in-kind campaign contributions valued at \$10 each and shall be eligible contributions for ALL candidates who opt in to the public matching program or enact rules that would achieve the same result.
- 3) Amend the Debate requirement as written so that candidates would be required to actually participate in 2 debates in the Primary election and 2 debates in the General election. In order to ensure equitable face-to-face meetings of the candidates delete the word Town Hall.

**We urge the council NOT to approve the ordinance as written, but rather to incorporate the above changes.**

September 20, 2018

Mayor Eric Garcetti and  
The Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CIS on CF 15-1088-S1 and CF 12-1269-S5 to increase matching funds for political campaigns

The Studio City Neighborhood Council represents approximately 35,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. Many of us are concerned about the influence of money on our elections.

The Matching Funds Trust Fund, as envisioned in the City Charter, is intended to reduce the power of moneyed special interests in elections by ensuring qualified candidates will receive enough funding, through public financing, to allow their voices to be heard. The Ethics Commission has recommended increased matching funds rates for City elections, due to the surplus in the Matching Funds in the Trust Fund. As of July 1, 2018 the fund had a balance of \$16.1 million dollars.

After discussion and public comment the Studio City Neighborhood Council believe that each clerk verified in-district ballot qualifying signature, up to 500, should be counted as an in-kind contribution of \$10 and be eligible for automatic submission to the public matching fund program.

**Motion:** The Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the recommendations of the Ethics Commission August 21, 2018 12-1269-S5 (CFMS) with the following three proposed changes.

- 1) Remove the threshold requirements to receive minimum amounts of qualified contributions, depending on the office sought (\$25,000 for City Council; \$75,000 for Controller or City Attorney; \$150,000 for Mayor).
- 2) Amend LAMC 49.7.22 - 49.7.30, LAAC 24.31 et seq. to clarify that qualifying ballot signatures shall be considered in-kind campaign contributions valued at \$10 each and shall be eligible contributions for ALL candidates who opt in to the public matching program or enact rules that would achieve the same result.
- 3) Amend the Debate requirement as written so that candidates would be required to actually participate in 2 debates in the Primary election and 2 debates in the General election. In order to ensure equitable face-to-face meetings of the candidates delete the word Town Hall.

Pursuant to Charter Section 703, the City Council may only approve or disapprove the ordinance and cannot amend it, as the ordinance is the codification of the Ethics Commission's regulations. City Council may need to disapprove this ordinance prior to the October deadline so that the Ethics Commission may consider those necessary regulation changes at a later meeting.

Therefore the Studio City Neighborhood Council urges you to disapprove of the ordinance as written in CF 15-1088-S1 and CF 12-1269-S5 and send it back to the Ethics Commission for amendment before returning to council.

Studio City Neighborhood Council

Against.

For, if amended.