



**MICHAEL N. FEUER**  
CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 19-0134  
MAY 08 2019

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 9.7 OF CHAPTER IV OF THE  
LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE THE CITY'S PUBLIC MATCHING  
FUNDS PROGRAM FOR CITY CANDIDATES**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

As requested by the City Council on April 16, 2019, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance amends the public matching funds provisions of the City's Campaign Finance Ordinance (Article 9.7 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC)).

Summary of Ordinance

This draft ordinance amends the aggregate contribution and other requirements for candidates to qualify for participation in the City's matching funds program, as well as makes other technical changes. Specifically, the draft ordinance changes two criteria for candidates to participate in the matching funds program. First, the ordinance effectively reduces the aggregate contribution threshold and the minimum number of contributions a candidate must raise to qualify to receive matching funds. The ordinance utilizes a formula that is tied to the existing maximum contribution amount available for matching ("maximum per contributor amount") as provided in Section 49.7.27 in the Campaign Finance Ordinance. For a City Council candidate, the aggregate contribution threshold is 100 times the maximum per contributor amount

provided in LAMC 49.7.27, which currently would total \$11,400. For a City Attorney or Controller candidate, the aggregate contribution qualification threshold is 150 times the maximum per contributor, which currently would total \$32,100, and for a Mayoral candidate, 300 times the maximum per contributor amount, which currently would total \$64,200.

Second, the proposed amendments require that a public matching funds candidate debate his or her opponents. If all opponents refuse to debate the candidate, the candidate must conduct a town hall meeting. A candidate would not be eligible to receive any matching funds until this requirement (and all other requirements) are met. The draft ordinance also makes technical changes.

The City Council has approved Ethics Commission regulations revising the definitions of debate and town hall.

Council Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the City Ethics Commission, and its comments have been incorporated.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Renee Stadel at (213) 978-7100. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By



DAVID MICHAELSON  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM:RS:cl  
Transmittal