

MOTION

Since the 2010 Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the amount of money being spent to influence political campaigns has sharply increased. Absent a new court ruling, or a constitutional amendment, the City has limited authority to regulate outside spending from moneyed special interests. One of the most effective counterbalances to this unregulated and unaccountable spending, would be to increase the influence of small dollar donations by increasing the rate at which the city provides public matching funds.


The Los Angeles City Ethics Commission previously submitted a slate of campaign finance reform recommendations in 2014, and, in a more detailed 2015 report, recommended increased matching funds rates for City elections, due to the surplus in the Matching Funds Trust Fund.

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. At our current rates of match, public funding is not bolstering small dollar donors at the level necessary to ensure qualified candidates can get their message to voters, and the Matching Funds Trust Fund is being replenished at a rate significantly faster than it is being used.


WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Ethics Commission be requested to prepare and present an ordinance and report on the implications of increasing the matching fund rates from the current 2:1 match in primary elections and 4:1 match in general elections to 6:1 in both primary elections and general elections for all candidates who qualify for matching funds.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Ethics Commission be requested to report on whether the maximum per-contribution matches in Sec. 49.7.27 of the Campaign Finance Ordinance should be revised to cap matches at lower levels, such as \$100.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be directed to report back on any impacts these changes may have on the City's general fund.

CO-PRESENTED BY   
 DAVID RYU  
 Councilmember, 4th District

CO-PRESENTED BY   
 PAUL KREKORIAN  
 Councilmember, 2nd District

CO-PRESENTED BY   
 JOE BUSCAINO  
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SECONDED BY 

ORIGINAL

JAN 10 2017  
