Ordinance #08-011

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL RE-ENACTING CHAPTER VII
CITY OF ALBANY CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 1996 OF THE ALBANY
MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, the Council passed Ordinance #08-010 on August 4, 2008;

WHEREAS, due to questions raised about the process of adoption of Ordinance #08-010, the City Council wishes to re-enact the provisions adopted on August 4, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City Council waives reading of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS THAT CHAPTER 7
IS HEREBY REPEALED IN ITS ENTIRETY AND IS AMENDED TO READ AS
FOLLOWS:

Section 1:

Chapter VII, entitled City of Albany Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1996 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7-1 TITLE.

This Chapter shall be known as the "City of Albany Campaign Finance Reform Act of 1996." (Ord. #96-06; Ord. #04-05, §1)

7-1.1 Findings and Declarations.

The people find and declare each of the following:

a. Monetary contributions to political campaigns are a legitimate form of participation in the American political process, but the financial strength of certain individuals, persons or organizations should not permit them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.

b. The rapidly increasing costs of political campaigns have forced many candidates to raise larger and larger proportions of their campaign funds from interest groups with a specific
financial stake in matters before the City Council. This has caused the public perception that votes are improperly influenced by monetary contributions. This perception is undermining the credibility and integrity of the governmental process.

c. Candidates are raising less money in small contributions and more in large individual and organization contributions. This has created the public impression that the small contributor has an insignificant role to play in political campaigns.

7.1.2 Intent of This Act.

a. To limit the amount of money that may be contributed to each candidate for public office by any person or organization in any election;

b. To limit the amount of money that each candidate will spend in the course of an election campaign, by voluntary agreement; and

c. To provide sufficient incentives to elicit voluntary commitments from candidates that they will limit campaign expenditures.

d. This law is enacted in accordance with the terms of Section 5 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of California and pursuant to the police powers of the Charter of the City of Albany.

7.2 INTERPRETATION OF THIS ACT.

Unless otherwise specified, the definitions set forth in Government Code Sections 82000 et seq. shall govern the interpretation of this Act, except that, for the purposes of this chapter, the word "contribution" shall be interpreted to include loans to candidates and campaigns.

7.3 LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS.

a. It is unlawful for a candidate, committee supporting or opposing a candidate, or person acting on behalf of a candidate or committee to solicit or accept from any other person a contribution which will cause the total amount contributed by that other person in support of or opposition to a candidate to exceed one hundred ($100.00) dollars for any single election.

b. It is unlawful for any person to make to any candidate or committee supporting or opposing a candidate a contribution that will cause the total amount contributed by that person in
support of or opposition to a candidate to exceed one hundred ($100.00) dollars for any single
election, except as provided for candidates who agree to the expenditure limit ceiling.

c. Nothing in this section is intended to limit the amount of his or her own money or
property that a candidate may contribute to, including loan to, or expend on behalf of candidate's
own campaign.

d. The contribution limits contained in Section 7-3b. apply to the total contributions
of an person to a candidate.

e. Total anonymous contributions to a candidate or committee, which exceed in the
aggregate two hundred ($200.00) dollars with respect to a single election shall not
be used by the candidate or committee for whom it was intended. To the extent
that total anonymous contributions exceed two hundred ($200.00) dollars, the
excess shall be paid promptly from available campaign funds, if any, to the City
Clerk and made payable to the City Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund of
the City.

f. For the purposes of this Chapter, "person" means any individual, firm,
partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, personal trust, family trust, company,
corporation, association, proprietorship, sole proprietorship, committee, labor union, or any other
organization or group of person acting in concert.

7-4 OBLIGATION TO RETURN CONTRIBUTIONS.

a. If a candidate, committee, or committee treasurer is offered a contribution the
acceptance of which would constitute a violation of this Chapter, the candidate, committee or
committee treasurer shall refuse the offer.

b. If a candidate, committee, or committee treasurer receives a monetary
contribution the acceptance of which would constitute a violation of this Chapter, neither the
candidate, committee, nor committee treasurer shall be subject to any penalty for receipt of that
contribution if the candidate, committee, or committee treasurer:

1. Does not deposit the contribution into the campaign contribution checking
account; and,
2. Returns the contribution within twenty (20) business days of the calendar day the contribution was received.

c. If a candidate, committee, or committee treasurer deposits into the campaign contribution checking account a monetary contribution the acceptance of which constitutes a violation of this Chapter, the candidate, committee, or committee treasurer shall within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the candidate's committee's or committee treasurer's discovery of the violation provide in writing to the City Clerk all facts pertaining to the contribution, including but not limited to:

1. A copy of any check(s), draft(s) or other instrument(s) by which the contribution was made; and

2. If made in cash, a report of the amount and denominations of currency tendered and a legible photocopy of the bank deposit slip; and

3. If by wire or other electronic fund transfer, a legible printout or photocopy of the transaction; and

4. A report of the means of tender, delivery or confirmation of the contribution (e.g., U.S. Postal Service or private mail, courier service, in person, etc.); and

5. A report of the full name and street address of the contributor.

d. The candidate or committee treasurer shall promptly deliver from available funds, if any, an amount equal to any monetary contribution constituting a violation of this Chapter that is deposited into the campaign contribution checking account to the City Clerk and made payable to the City Treasurer. The City Treasurer shall deposit any contribution or equivalent amount he or she receives under Section 7-4 into the City's General Fund.

7-5 PAYMENT AND DISCLOSURE OF PAYMENT FOR GOODS AND SERVICES.

a. An expenditure is made on the date the payment is made or the date that the candidate or committee receives the goods or services, whichever is earlier.

b. Every candidate and committee shall disclose expenditures in the same time and manner required by California Government Code Section 84211. An expenditure which has been incurred but not paid during a reporting period shall be disclosed as an accrued expense.
c. Each candidate or treasurer of a controlled committee that supports or opposes a
candidate shall pay, or cause to be paid, each vendor upon receipt of the vendor's goods or
services in whole or in part.

d. The treasurer of a committee that makes independent expenditures in support of
or in opposition to a candidate shall pay, or cause to be paid, each vendor upon receipt of the
vendor's goods or services in whole or in part.

e. In addition to any of other laws requiring disclosure, disclosure of payments for
goods and services shall be filed with the City Clerk seven (7) days before the date of the
election.

(Ord. #04-05, §1)

7-6 VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO EXPENDITURE CEILING.

Each candidate for office, at the time of filing his or her nomination papers, shall file a
statement of acceptance or rejection of a campaign expenditure ceiling, stating that the total
campaign expenditures by the candidate and the controlled committee of such candidate will not
exceed a limit equal to fifty ($0.7050) cents per registered voter, as of the most recent
presidential election, the amount rounded to the nearest one hundred ($100.00) dollars and
indexed for inflation.

7-7 INCENTIVES FOR AGREEMENT TO EXPENDITURE CEILING.

Each candidate for office filing a statement of acceptance of the campaign expenditure
ceiling and agreement not to accept more than twenty-five (25%) ten (10%) percent of her/his
campaign funds from persons residing in communities other than Albany, California shall not be
subject to the obligations in Section 7-5 and the restrictions in Section 7-3 and shall be subject to
the following restrictions:

a. Contribution Limit. No person shall make to the candidate and the controlled
committee of such a candidate, and the candidate and the candidate's controlled committee shall
not accept from each such person, a contribution or contributions totaling more than two hundred
fifty ($250.00) dollars for each election in which the candidate is on the ballot or is a write-in
candidate.

(Ord. #96-06; Ord. #04-05, §1)
7-8 DUTIES OF THE LOCAL FILING OFFICER.

The City Administrator shall assign duties, as appropriate, for the implementation of this Chapter, including but not limited to the following:

a. Adjustment of the expenditure ceilings and contribution limitations in January of even-numbered years to reflect any increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index and in the number of registered voters in the City of Albany. Such adjustments in dollar figures shall be rounded off to the nearest hundred for the limitations on contributions and the expenditure ceiling.

b. Prescription of the necessary forms for filing the appropriate statements.

(Ord. #96-06; Ord. #04-05, §1)

7-9 CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR ACTIONS.

Any person who violates any provision of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who causes any other person to violate any provision of this Act, or who aids and abets any other person in the violation of any provision of this Act, shall be liable under the provisions of this section. Prosecution for violation of any provision of this Act shall be commenced within four (4) years after the date on which the violation occurred. (Ord. #96-06; Ord. #04-05, §1)

7-11 APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person from applicable provisions of any other laws of this State or jurisdiction, except this act shall supersede Government Code Section 85300.

Section 2: Publication

This ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Albany, which said newspaper is designated for that purpose, or it shall be posted in three locations.

Section 3: Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the
ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clause or phrases be declared invalid.

Section 4: Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective 30 days on or after its final passage and adoption.

Date: [Signature]

Mayor Robert S. Lieber
I, JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, City Clerk of the City of Albany, California, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City of Albany is five and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 08-011 which was passed and adopted by the said City Council, approved and signed by the Mayor of said City, and attested by the City Clerk of said City, all at a regular meeting of the said Council on the 21st day of December 2008 A.D., and that the same was so passed and adopted by the following votes and duly published or posted according to State law.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Javandel, Okawachi, Wile & Mayor Lieber

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Albany, this 2nd day of December 2008.

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future.