

## **CONTRIBUTION LIMITS**

### Cincinnati campaign contribution limits:

- Individual Contributions: \$1100
- Political action committees: \$2700
- Political party or legislative campaign funds: \$10,500

### Ohio campaign contribution limits:

- \$100 in cash currency (only includes currency and coins)
- Any non-cash currency limits are left up to the municipality or county
- Corporations are barred from contributing
- LLCs can contribute if contributions are allocated to specific individuals

## **CAMPAIGN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### Cincinnati Reporting Requirements:

- July 31<sup>st</sup>: All contributions and expenditures since the last report
- 38<sup>th</sup> day after the municipal election: all contributions and expenditures since the last report<sup>1</sup>
- Independent expenditures<sup>2</sup> of more than \$1,000 made during the reporting period must be reported within 10 days
  - If the expenditure is made within 30 days of the election it must be reported within 48 hours
  - If the expenditure is made within 7 days of the election it must be reported within 24 hours

### Ohio Reporting Requirements:

- Pre-election report due the 12<sup>th</sup> day before an election covering contributions and expenditures from the date of the last filed report through the 20<sup>th</sup> day before the election.
- Post-election report due the 38<sup>th</sup> day after the election covering all activity not previously reported through the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the election.

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<sup>1</sup> There are additional reports required if a mayoral primary is held.

<sup>2</sup> Independent expenditure is defined as: "an expenditure by a person advocating the election or defeat of an identified candidate or candidates, that is not made with the consent of, in coordination, cooperation, or consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of any candidate or candidates or of the campaign committee or agent of the candidate or candidates.

- Semi-annual report due the last business day of July covering all activity since the date of the last filed report through June 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>3</sup>
- Annual report due last business day of January covering all activity since the last filed report through December 31 of the prior year.

## **ETHICS LAW / FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES BY ELECTED OFFICIALS / ORC Chapter 102**

### City Financial Disclosure:

- Mayor, Council, City Manager and department heads must file annually
- Includes the following info:
  - Immediate family members
  - Employer/Companies of official and immediate family
  - Source of income of official, spouse and dependent children greater than \$5,000
  - Businesses the official, spouse or dependent children have a 5% or greater ownership interest or holds an office or has a fiduciary relationship
  - Any beneficial interests in real estate other than the primary residence, held by the official, their spouse, or dependent child
  - All financial transactions between Councilmembers or between Councilmembers and the Mayor totaling more than \$75 (either in a single transaction or in the aggregate) for gifts, loans or services.

### Ohio Financial Disclosure:

- Must be filed annually by candidates for City elected office and current elected City officials
- Includes the following:
  - Name of candidate/official, immediate family and any business names
  - Every source of income (except from a legislative agent) received by candidate/official or their benefit identifying anyone the candidate/official knows or has reason to know is doing/seeking to do business with the City.
  - Every business entity in which the candidate/official has an investment of over \$1,000 as of Dec. 31 of the prior year, or in which the person holds any office or has a fiduciary relationship.

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<sup>3</sup> This does not apply to City candidates unless the campaign has both: 1) received during the semi-annual reporting period contributions exceeding \$10,000 AND 2) did not file a post-primary election report.

- All interests in real estate, except the personal residence
- Anyone owing the candidate/official more than \$1,000
- Source of each gift over \$75 received by the candidate/official or other person for the candidate/official's benefit
- Source and amount of travel expenses by the candidate/official incurred in connection with official duties<sup>4</sup>
- Identification of the source of payment for meals and beverages that exceed \$100 aggregated per calendar year<sup>5</sup>

Ohio Rules on Gifts and Things of Value:

- A public official or employee may not solicit, accept, or use the authority or influence of office or employment to secure anything of value<sup>6</sup> that is of a character as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon the public official or employee with respect to his or her duties. Honorariums are prohibited.
- Travel, meals, lodging, or expenses in connection with conferences and seminars related to official duties are okay if they don't manifest a substantial and improper influence on the official with respect to their duties.

**COUNCIL LOBBYING**

Cincinnati Requirements:

- Requires legislative agents and employers to file the following:
  - Initial registration: Due within 10 days of being engaged to lobby. Includes name and address of agent and employer on whose behalf the agent is lobbying and a description of the type of legislation to which the engagement relates.
  - Updated registration: every 6 months the registration statement must be updated with the following:
    - confirming the continued existence of each engagement, and
    - listing the ordinances and resolutions for which the agent actively lobbied, and
    - listing any financial transactions required by the financial transaction disclosures.
  - Statements of Financial Transactions
    - Required for any financial transactions with or for the benefit of any
      - Councilmember and his/her staff,
      - Appointees of Council,

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<sup>4</sup> Does not include meetings of a national or state organization to which the City pays membership dues.

<sup>5</sup> Does not include meetings of a national or state organization to which the City pays membership dues.

<sup>6</sup> The general rule of thumb is that anything worth more than \$25 is a thing of value, although that is not set out in the statute.

- City Manager
  - Department Directors
- Must be filed every 6 months with the updated registration statements
- Exceptions to lobbyist regulations:
  - Appearances before Council or committees;
  - News and editorials in bona fide media;
  - Gathering of information for news reporting;
  - Publications for members of bona fide associations or charitable/fraternal non-profits.

**MAY CHARTER AMENDMENTS (Effect of Indictments and Council Training) :**

Changes the City Charter to include the following:

- Prohibits a Councilmember from changing his or her successor designation subsequent to an indictment for a felony or the filing of criminal charges related to conduct in the performance of Council duties.
- Requires the City Solicitor to appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute under ORC 733.72 to remove a Councilmember who has been indicted for a felony or against whom a criminal complaint has been filed related to the Councilmember’s official conduct.
- Provides for pre-conviction suspension (with pay) of a Councilmember upon indictment for a state or federal felony related to the performance of Council duties and removal of a Councilmember upon conviction or a guilty plea.
- Requires ethics training for Councilmembers within 60 days of taking office.