

CONTACT US

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City of Loveland

Election FAQs

WHY IS THERE A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT?

The Loveland City Charter notes that the citizens of Loveland found that:

- (1) large campaign contributions to political candidates allow wealthy contributors and special interest groups to exercise a disproportionate level of influence over the political process; and
- (2) large campaign contributions create the potential for and appearance of corruption. The citizens of Loveland found that the rising cost of campaigning prevents qualified citizens from running for political office, and that the interests of the public are best served by full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions, strong enforcement of campaign laws, and limiting campaign contributions.

WHAT IS AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION?

A non-monetary contribution - a gift, a loan, or any non-monetary contribution, e.g. a donated product or service.

WHAT IS THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT?

\$130.

ARE CORPORATIONS AND LLC'S SUBJECT TO THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT?

Yes- they are subject to the \$130 limit.

IS VOLUNTEERING FOR A CAMPAIGN CONSIDERED A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION?

No.

WHAT IS A POLITICAL COMMITTEE?

Two or more persons (including corporations and companies) who come together or cooperate to work for or against a candidate running for office.

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE?

An entity or person acting alone. It/they cannot be controlled by or coordinating with any candidate or candidate's agent. Coordination changes the contribution and expenditure subject to the campaign limit.

DOES THE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT APPLY TO CANDIDATE, POLITICAL AND ISSUE COMMITTEES?

Yes.

IF I MAKE AN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE WHAT IS THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT?

There is no limit on a campaign contribution if it is made as a true independent expenditure and reported to the City Clerk's office within three days of the expenditure.

CAN I HIRE SOMEONE TO HELP WITH MY INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE GREATER THAN THE \$130 LIMIT?

You can hire a person or entity to implement your independent expenditure so long as that person or entity does not donate money or in-kind services in cooperation with your independent expenditure. Note that a contractor handling multiple independent expenditures for the same committee may be found in violation of the Charter for indirect cooperative efforts. Any cooperation will change the status to a political committee subject to the campaign contribution limits.

WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT ALLEGING A VIOLATION OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE (PER CITY CHARTER ARTICLE 17)?

Anyone may file a complaint.

HOW DO I FILE A CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMPLAINT IF SOMEONE IS NOT FOLLOWING THE RULES?

Complaint forms can be found and sent to the Loveland City Clerk at lovgov.org/city-government/city-clerk

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMPLAINT IS FILED?

The City Clerk will review the complaint and determine whether the complaint: (1) was timely filed; (2) contains sufficient facts to support the alleged violation(s); (3) does not specifically identify a violation. The City Clerk will issue a notice to cure and work with the campaign or individual to cure the violation. The City Clerk may refer the matter to an independent hearing officer if: (1) the violation is not curable; (2) additional investigation is needed; or (3) the City Clerk determines the respondent did not substantially comply or act in good faith. A complaint must be filed no later than 60 days after the election.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A FINDING THAT A CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATION OCCURRED?

A civil penalty may be assessed of at least double and up to five times the amount contributed, received or spent. There may also be a civil penalty of \$25.00 per day for each day that a required statement or other information has not been filed. Further, the hearing officer may order: (1) disclosure of the source and amount of any undisclosed contributions or expenditures; (2) the return to the donor of any contributions made which was the subject of the violation; (3) any other relief deemed appropriate.