

Ordinance No. 121223

CW

The City of Seattle
Council Bill/Ordinance

Council Bill No. 114625

Relating to reporting of election campaign contributions; amending Sections 2.04.060 and 2.04.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and waiving enforcement of the August 10, 2003, due date for certain reports.

pass 2-0 M, LC

CF No. _____

7-14-03 Pass

Date Introduced:	JUL 7 - 2003	
Date 1st Referred:	JUL 7 - 2003	To: (committee) Neighborhoods, Arts & Civil Rights Committee
Date Re - Referred:		To: (committee)
Date Re - Referred:		To: (committee)
Date of Final Passage:	7-14-03	Full Council Vote: 9-0
Date Presented to Mayor:	7-15-03	Date Approved: 7-21-03
Date Returned to City Clerk:	7-22-03	Date Published: 3/4/03
Date Vetted by Mayor:		T.O. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F.T. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Passed Over Veto:		Date Veto Published:
		Veto Sustained:

This file is complete and ready

Law Department

Law Dept. Review

The City of Seattle - Legislative Department

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by: _____

[Signature]

Councilmember

Committee Action:

pass 2-0 NMLC

7/1/03

(CH)

7-14-03 Passed 9-0

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council.

Committee: _____

(initial/date)

Law Department

Law Dept. Review

OMP
Review

City Clerk
Review

Electronic
Copy Loaded

Indexed

*File in folder
E
Formatted
Full text
search
7/1/03
CH*

ORDINANCE 121223

1
2 AN ORDINANCE relating to reporting of election campaign contributions; amending Sections 2.04.060
3 and 2.04.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and waiving enforcement of the August 10, 2003,
4 due date for certain reports.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

6 Section 1. Subsection 2.04.060(A) of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

7 **SMC 2.04.060 Executive Director -- Duties.**

8 The Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission shall be responsible for the
9 management of said office, may in the exercise of such duties consult with the Seattle Ethics and
10 Elections Commission and in that connection is authorized to:

11 A. Relieve, by published regulations of general applicability, candidates or political
12 committees of obligations to comply with some or all of the reporting provisions of this chapter
13 relating to disclosure of campaign finances, if they have not received contributions nor made
14 expenditures of more than ((Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000))) Three Thousand Five Hundred
15 Dollars (\$3,500) plus, in the case of candidates, the amount of the candidate's filing fee provided by
16 law, in connection with any election campaign; and

17 ***

18 Section 2. Subsection 2.04.250(B)(3) of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

19 **SMC 2.04.250 Treasurer's reports -- Procedures.**

20 ***

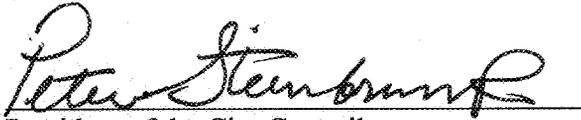
21 B. At the following intervals each campaign treasurer shall file with the City Clerk a further
22 report of the contributions received and expenditures made since the date of the last report:

23 ***

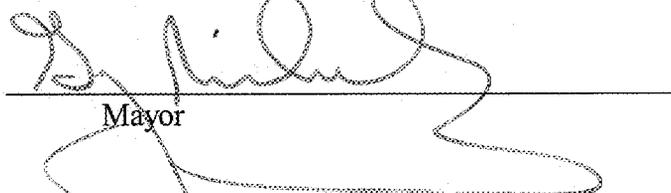


1 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its
2 approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after
3 presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

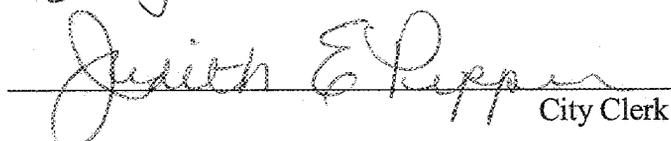
4 Passed by the City Council the 14th day of July, 2003, and signed by me in open
5 session in authentication of its passage this 14th day of July, 2003.

6
7 
8 President of the City Council

9 Approved by me this 21 day of July, 2003.

10
11 
12 Mayor

13 Filed by me this 22 day of July, 2003.

14
15 
16 City Clerk

17 (Seal)





City of Seattle

Ethics and Elections Commission

July 3, 2003

Honorable Peter Steinbrueck
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall
600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Steinbrueck,

The attached ordinance relating to reporting of election campaign contributions; amending Sections 2.04.060 and 2.04.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and waiving enforcement of the August 10, 2003, due date for certain reports will bring certain City of Seattle campaign disclosure reporting requirements in line with those of the Washington Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). In these specific instances the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) believes that amending the legislation will relieve treasurers of undue burdens without significantly reducing the opportunities for disclosure. Specifically, this legislation will raise the threshold for reporting of certain campaign contributions from \$2,000 to \$3,500 to correspond with the PDC's current threshold.

The legislation will also waive enforcement of the August 10, 2003, due date for certain reports. Last year the Council amended SMC 2.04.250 at the Commission's request to require campaigns to file a Campaign Summary (C4) on August 10 of each year. Prior to the 2002 legislation, campaigns were required to file a C4 on July 10 and then not again until the last week of August, approximately seven weeks later. The PDC has informed the SEEC that campaigns required by the SEEC to file on August 10 will be required to file one set of reports for the SEEC and a separate set of reports for the PDC, i.e. file July 1-31 on August 10, and August 1-19 on August 26 with the SEEC; file July 1-August 19 on August 26 with the PDC. Commission staff believe three reports, including one that duplicates information provided on the other two, would be an undue burden on treasurers and do nothing to further disclosure. This legislation has no fiscal impact.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact Polly Grow, SEEC Campaign Finance Auditor at 615-1248.

Yours truly,

Terry R. Thomas
Executive Director

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4010, Seattle, WA 98104-5051

Tel: (206) 684-8500, Fax: (206) 684-8590, E-Mail: ethicsandelections@seattle.gov, Web: <http://www.seattle.gov/ethics>
An equal employment opportunity, affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.



FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	DOF Analyst/Phone:
Ethics and Elections	Polly Grow/615-1248	Aaron Bert/684-5176

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to reporting of election campaign contributions; amending Sections 2.04.060 and 2.04.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and waiving enforcement of the August 10, 2003, due date for certain reports.

• **Summary of the Legislation:**

This legislation, amending Sections 2.04.060 and 2.04.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code will raise the threshold for reporting of certain campaign contributions to correspond with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission's current threshold. The legislation will also waive enforcement of the August 10, 2003, due date for certain reports. This legislation has no fiscal impact.

• **Background:** *(Include brief description of the purpose and context of legislation and include record of previous legislation and funding history, if applicable):*

Current law authorizes the Executive Director to relieve from campaign disclosure reporting obligations those candidate or political committees receiving or spending \$2,000 or less during an election cycle. This legislation would raise that threshold to \$3,500.

Last year the Council amended SMC 2.04.250 at the Commission's request to require campaigns to file a Campaign Summary (C4) on August 10 of each year. Prior to the 2002 legislation, campaigns were required to file a C4 on July 10 and then not again until the last week of August. With favorable input from treasurers and campaign watchdogs the Commission proposed the August 10 C4. Subsequently the PDC informed the Commission that campaigns required by the SEEC to file on August 10 will be required to file one set of reports for the SEEC and a separate set of reports for the PDC, i.e. file July 1-31 on August 10, and August 1-19 on August 26 with the SEEC; file July 1-August 19 on August 26 with the PDC. Commission staff believes three reports, including one that duplicates information provided on the other two, would be an undue burden on treasurers and do nothing to further disclosure.

• *Please check one of the following:*

- ✘ **This legislation does not have any financial implications.** *(Stop here and delete the remainder of this document prior to saving and printing.)*

STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

161575
City of Seattle, Clerk's Office

No. ORDINANCE IN FULL

Affidavit of Publication

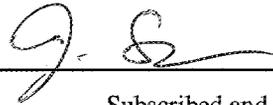
The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:121223 ORD IN FULL

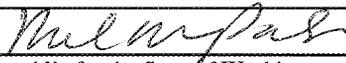
was published on

7/31/2003



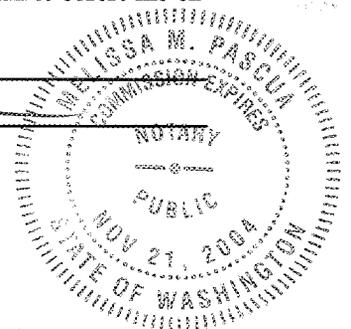
Subscribed and sworn to before me on

7/31/2003



Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication



State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

ORDINANCE 121223

AN ORDINANCE relating to reporting of election campaign contributions; amending Sections 2.04.060 and 2.04.250 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and waiving enforcement of the August 10, 2003, due date for certain reports.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection 2.04.060(A) of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

SMC 2.04.060 Executive Director — Duties.

The Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission shall be responsible for the management of said office, may in the exercise of such duties consult with the Seattle Ethics and

Elections Commission and in that connection is authorized to:

A. Relieve, by published regulations of general applicability, candidates or political committees of obligations to comply with some or all of the reporting provisions of this chapter relating to disclosure of campaign finances, if they have not received contributions nor made expenditures of more than (Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000)) Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) plus, in the case of candidates, the amount of the candidate's filing fee provided by law, in connection with any election campaign, and

Section 2. Subsection 2.04.250(B)(3) of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

SMC 2.04.250 Treasurer's reports — Procedures.

B. At the following intervals each campaign treasurer shall file with the City Clerk's further report of the contributions received and expenditures made since the date of the last report:

3. On the tenth (10th) day of each month in which no other reports are required to be filed under this section (prior to the fifteenth (15th) day of the month); provided, that such report shall only be filed if the committee has received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month and either the total contributions received or total expenditures made since the last such report exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200);

Section 3. If this ordinance takes effect after August 10, 2003, campaign reports that were due on August 10, 2003, pursuant to Subsection 2.04.250(B)(3) of the Seattle Municipal Code as it existed prior to its amendment by Section 2 of this ordinance, need not have been filed on August 10, 2003, and no action shall be taken to enforce that due date with respect to any such report, so long as the information that would have been required in that report is properly reported on August 25, 2003, instead.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the 14th day of July, 2003, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 14th day of July, 2003.

PETER STEINBRUECK,

President of the City Council