



# Campaign Finance Ordinance

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Regular Meeting  
May 1, 2023

# Agenda

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Background

Current Campaign Finance Regulations

New Campaign Finance Regulations

Council Amendments

# Background

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Council Member Noble submitted a Council Admin Business form to request staff draft an ordinance to:

1. Increase number of campaign finance reporting deadlines to 6, beginning July 15 or no later than submission of candidate affidavit to City Elections.
  2. 48-hour reporting deadline for all contributions over \$400 from any source that benefit the candidate, whether cash or in-kind, natural persons or committees, to City Elections.
  3. 24-hour turnaround for City Elections to update candidate campaign finance reports on website, weekends included.
  4. Increase election staff to ensure campaign finance reporting and publication deadlines are met.
  5. Enforcement with fines.
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# Background

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At the March 6 meeting, Council passed a motion to direct staff to prepare campaign finance transparency reporting that would require reporting of campaign contributions monthly and within two weeks of the election reported on the website within 48 hours.

City Attorney's Office and City Clerk's Office have worked together to draft an ordinance for Commerce City to adopt its own campaign finance regulations.

# State Law

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City currently follows the Fair Campaign Practices Act

3 reporting periods, 21 days before, Friday before, and 35 days after election

Large contribution defined as \$1000 or more received within 30 days of election

\$50/day fine for late reports

# Municipal Comparisons

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Denver – 5, 4 pre-election and 1 post-election

Aurora – 9, 7 pre-election, 2 post-election

Broomfield – 6, monthly reports beginning in July, then 10/1-10/15, 10/16-10/31, and post-election

Fort Collins – 6, 4 pre-election and 2 post-election

Arvada – follows statute but requires 1 additional report 45 days prior

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# Campaign Finance

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Ordinance creates:

- Definitions
- Requirement for reports from committees and standalone candidates
- Requirement to be filed with CCO within 5 days of end of the reporting period
- Requirement to be filed electronically
  - City Clerk will require submission of an Excel workbook form

# Campaign Finance

## Reporting Periods

| Beginning Period          | Ending Period              | Due Date                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Date of Candidacy         | July 31 <sup>st</sup>      | August 5 <sup>th</sup>    |
| August 1 <sup>st</sup>    | August 31 <sup>st</sup>    | September 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| September 1 <sup>st</sup> | September 30 <sup>th</sup> | October 5 <sup>th</sup>   |
| October 1 <sup>st</sup>   | October 15 <sup>th</sup>   | October 20 <sup>th</sup>  |
| October 16 <sup>th</sup>  | October 29 <sup>th</sup>   | Friday before Election    |
| October 30 <sup>th</sup>  | November 30 <sup>th</sup>  | December 5 <sup>th</sup>  |



# Campaign Finance

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## Filings:

- Large contributions defined as \$400 or more
- Large contributions to be filed within 48 hours
- Reports will be accepted and uploaded to website as-is
- City Clerk will review reports for deficiencies and require amended reports within 3 business days
- Reports due by 5pm, Clerk will upload to website by 5pm the next business day

# Campaign Finance

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## Fines:

- City Clerk may impose a \$50/day fine for any report or amended report not filed by deadline
- Committees/Candidates may request a 3 business day extension
- Committees/Candidates may request waiver of fines
- City Clerk determines whether to grant extensions or waivers
- Fines shall be paid with personal funds

# Campaign Finance

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City Clerk shall:

- Create or amend rules or procedures
- Prescribe all forms
- Provide instruction materials for each form
- Preserve and maintain reports
- Make them available for inspection and copying
- Make them available on website
- Audit reports for compliance
- Notify committees of violations

# Council Input

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Campaign Finance requirements:

- Reporting periods
- Fine amounts



**End**

