



Sonoma County Campaign Contribution Limits

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 2, Article XX, Section 2-303

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, August 4, 2026



1. Recommended Action
2. Background
3. Need for Update
4. Proposed Ordinance Amendments
5. Questions

- Right to participate in democracy through political contributions
- Campaign financing regulations permissible to avoid corruption in the political process
- Sonoma County: Campaign Finance Ordinance – Chapter 2, Article XX of the Sonoma County Code (Sections 2-300 through 2-314)
 - 1984: first campaign contribution limit adopted, set at \$1,000 for supervisorial candidates
 - 2000: extended to other elected officials
 - 2008: disclosure requirements were added, and contribution limits were increased to \$2,500
 - 2022: contribution limits were increased to \$3,500



- Legal Developments since 2022
- Assembly Bill 759 signed by Governor Newsom September 29, 2022
- Updated California Elections Code to move local sheriff and district attorney races to presidential election years and requires a sheriff or district attorney elected in 2022 to serve a six-year term.



(e) Special Circumstances Permitting Increased Contribution Limits.

1) In any election cycle where independent expenditures totaling more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) are made to support or oppose any candidate for county office, the three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) limit imposed by this section shall be increased to seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) for all candidates running for the same seat. In such an instance, no person shall make, and no county candidate, elective county officer or treasurer of any controlled committee of any county candidate or elective county officer shall solicit or accept, any contributions which would cause the total amount contributed by such person to such candidate or to his or her controlled committee, to exceed seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00).

(e)2) If any election cycle exceeds four (4) years, the three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) limit imposed by this section shall be increased on a pro rata basis for each additional year beyond four (4) years.

**Sec. 2-303(e)
Contribution
limitations.**

(f) Escalator. Contribution limits shall be increased ~~biannually~~ biennially using the change in California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Bay Area, rounded up to the nearest hundred dollars, with the first escalation to take place on January 1, 2025.

**Sec. 2-303(f)
Contribution
limitations.**

