

ORDINANCE AMENDING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE XX, SECTION 2-303 OF THE SONOMA COUNTY CODE REGARDING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, ordains as follows:

SECTION I. Section 2-303(e) and Section 2-303(f) of the Sonoma County Code, contained in Article XX, Chapter 2, named "Contribution limitations" are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-303. - Contribution limitations.

- (a) County Candidates. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall make, and no county candidate or treasurer of any controlled committee of any county candidate 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 three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) during any election cycle for any county office. No contributions shall be accepted by any candidate before the beginning of the election cycle related to the election for which the person is a candidate. Contributions accepted for campaign expenses and for officeholder expenses shall be aggregated for purposes of the limitation set forth in this section.
- (b) Elective County Officers With Outstanding Debt From Prior Election. No person shall make, and no elective county officer, or treasurer of any controlled committee of any elective county officer, shall solicit or accept, any contributions for the purpose of retiring outstanding debt from a prior county election which would cause the total amount contributed by such person to such elective county officer or to his or her controlled committee, to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the election in which the outstanding debt was incurred, regardless of when the contribution(s) is made or received. This restriction shall not apply to indebted former candidates who are not elective county officers.
- (c) Recall Elections. The contribution limitations set forth in Section 2-303(a) shall also apply to any candidate controlled committee which collects contributions for the purpose of making expenditures in support of or opposition to the recall of an elective county officer, and to contributions received by such elective county officer, during a recall election cycle as defined in Section 2-305 of this article.

(d) Candidate's Personal Funds. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a county candidate's contribution of his or her personal funds to his or her own controlled committee. Contributions by the spouse of a county candidate from such spouse's separate property shall be subject to the contribution limitations set forth in Section 2-303(a).

(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).
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.

(f) Escalator. Contribution limits shall be increased biennially using the change in California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Bay Area, rounded up to the nearest \$100, with the first escalation to take place on January 1, 2025.

SECTION II: Except to the extent that Article XX, Chapter 2, of the Sonoma County Code is specifically amended hereby, Article XX, Chapter 2, of the Sonoma County Code shall continue to be in full force and effect as originally adopted and nothing contained herein shall, or shall be construed to modify, invalidate or otherwise affect any provision of it.

SECTION III. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION IV. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect from and after thirty (30) days after the date of its passage and shall be published once before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after said passage, with the names of the Supervisors voting for or against the same, in *The Press Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sonoma, State of California.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced on the 4th day of August, 2026, and finally passed and adopted this 18th day of August, 2026, on regular roll call of the members of said Board by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

Rabbitt ___ Coursey ___ Gore ___ Hopkins ___ Hermosillo ___

Ayes ___ Noes ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the above and foregoing Ordinance duly adopted and **SO ORDERED**.

Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors