

What is a Political Committee?

The City Code defines a *political committee* as two (2) or more persons who are elected, appointed or chosen, or have associated themselves, for the purpose of making contributions to candidate committees, issue committees or other political committees, or for the purpose of making independent expenditures. *Political committee* does not include:

- (1) Issue committees or candidate committees; or
- (2) Any partnership, committee, association, corporation, labor organization or other organization or group of persons previously established for a primary purpose outside of the scope of Article V, Chapter 7 of the City Code (relating to campaigns)

There is no limit on the amount of money a person can contribute to a political committee.

What is an Independent Expenditure?

An *independent expenditure* means the payment of money by any person for the purpose of advocating the election, defeat or recall of a candidate, which expenditure is not controlled by, or coordinated with, any candidate or any agent of such candidate. *Independent expenditure* includes expenditures for political messages which unambiguously refer to any specific public office or candidate for such office, but shall not include expenditures made by persons, other than political committees, in the regular course and scope of their business and political messages sent solely to their members.

Any person or political committee making an independent expenditure totaling more than \$100, must deliver a notice, in writing, to the City Clerk no later than three (3) business days after the day that such funds are obligated. Funds are considered to be obligated as soon as an agreement is reached for the provision of the property, materials or services in question, regardless of when payment is to be made for such property or services. The City Clerk's Office has a form for the reporting of independent expenditures.

Other reporting requirements:

In addition to reporting independent expenditures, a political committee is required to report contributions and contributions in kind, expenditures made, and obligations entered into by the committee on the following dates:

- 21 days before the election
- 14 days before the election
- No later than NOON, the Friday before the election
- 30 days after the election

Any political committee which has not accepted any contributions or contributions in kind, made any expenditures, or entered into any obligations during a reporting period, is required to file a report with the City Clerk on the days specified certifying that the committee has not accepted any contributions or contributions in kind, made any expenditures, or entered into any obligations during the relevant reporting period.