

ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE related to reports of campaign contributions from continuing political committees; amending Seattle Municipal Code Section 2.04.230.

WHEREAS, one of the chief purposes of Seattle's Election Campaign Contributions Code is to provide information on the contributions and expenditures made by political committees to Seattle candidates and ballot propositions; and

WHEREAS, continuing political committees that are primarily active in State campaigns and contribute little to Seattle candidates and ballot proposition committees still need to file monthly reports with the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission; and

WHEREAS, for those continuing political committees that make only a few contributions to City of Seattle candidates and ballot proposition committees, the City has determined that filing with the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission does not advance the public's knowledge to an extent that outweighs the burden on those committees; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Seattle Municipal Code Section 2.04.230, which was last amended by Ordinance 123070, is amended as follows:

2.04.230 Continuing political committee ----- Reports.

A. In addition to the provisions of this section, a continuing political committee shall file and report on the same conditions and at the same times as any other committee in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2.04.160 through 2.04.210. However, continuing political committees that contribute no more than ten times the total amount of the contribution limit established under SMC 2.04.370 to candidate or ballot measure committees in any election cycle, make no other contributions or expenditures in support of or opposition to Seattle candidates or ballot measures in that election cycle, and make

1 timely and accurate filings with the PDC, are exempt from the remainder of the filing and
2 reporting provisions in this section 2.04.230 for that election cycle.

3 B. A continuing political committee shall file with the City Clerk a report on the
4 tenth day of the month detailing its activities for the preceding calendar month in which
5 the committee has received a contribution or made an expenditure, unless its total
6 contributions received and total expenditures are each \$200 or less. A continuing political
7 committee, which does not file a report for the preceding month, shall accumulate its
8 unreported contributions and expenditures, and on the tenth day of the month after its
9 aggregate unreported contributions or expenditures exceed \$200, it shall file a
10 consolidated report detailing its receipts and expenditures covering the months for which
11 no report was filed. The report shall be on a form supplied by the Executive Director and
12 shall include the following information:
13

- 14 1. The information required by Section 2.04.260;
- 15 2. Each expenditure made to retire previously accumulated debts of the
16 committee; identified by recipient, amount, and date of payments;
- 17 3. Such other information as the Executive Director shall prescribe by rule
18 adopted pursuant to the Administrative Code.¹

19 C. A continuing political committee shall file reports as required by this chapter until
20 the earlier of: (1) the date the continuing political committee dissolves; or (2)(a) in the
21 case of a continuing political committee that contributes to or makes independent
22 expenditures in support of candidates, the end of the latest election cycle of the
23 candidates to whom the continuing political committee contributed or for whom it made
24
25
26

1 independent expenditures, or (b) in the case of a continuing political committee that
2 contributes to ballot proposition committees, the date of the latest of the final reports filed
3 pursuant to Section 2.04.250 B4 by the ballot proposition committees to which the
4 continuing political committee contributed. In addition, if the continuing political
5 committee has debt at the end of the relevant election cycle or after the relevant final
6 report has been filed, it shall continue to file reports as required by this chapter until such
7 debt is paid or forgiven. When the continuing political committee's obligation to file
8 reports ends as set forth in this subsection, it shall submit a final report. Upon submitting
9 a final report, the duties of the campaign treasurer other than record retention shall cease
10 and there shall be no obligation to make any further reports.
11

12 D. The campaign treasurer shall maintain books of account accurately reflecting all
13 contributions and expenditures on a current basis within five business days of receipt or
14 expenditure. During the eight days immediately preceding the date of any election, for
15 which the committee has received any contributions or made any expenditures, the books
16 of account shall be kept current within one business day. On the eighth day preceding any
17 election, the books of account shall be open for public inspection for at least two
18 consecutive hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. For the five business days immediately
19 preceding the date of any election, the books of account shall be available by
20 appointment between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., as specified in the committee's statement of
21 organization filed pursuant to Section 2.04.160, as now or hereafter amended, at the
22 principal campaign headquarters or, if there is no campaign headquarters, at the address
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 of the campaign treasurer or other such place as may be authorized by the Executive
2 Director.

3 E. All reports filed pursuant to this section shall be certified as correct by the
4 campaign treasurer.

5 F. The campaign treasurer shall preserve books of accounts, bills, receipts, and all
6 other financial records of the campaign or political committee for five calendar years
7 following the year in which the transaction occurred.

8
9 Section 2. Seattle Municipal Code Section 2.04.155, which was last amended by
10 Ordinance 123070, is amended as follows:

11 **SMC 2.04.155 Electronic filing required -- Exemption.**

12 A. Each candidate or political committee that expects to receive or receives \$10,000
13 or more in aggregate contributions during the applicable period must file all reports
14 required by this chapter with the City Clerk by electronic transmission of the required
15 information. All political committees that (1) are neither ballot proposition nor candidate
16 political committees, and (2) expect to make contributions or expect to make
17 expenditures, including independent expenditures of \$5,000 or more, in the aggregate
18 during the applicable period, to or for the benefit of candidates or candidate political
19 committees or to or for the benefit of ballot proposition political committees must file all
20 reports required by this chapter with the City Clerk by electronic transmission. The
21 electronic format of the filing and the method of transmission shall meet requirements
22 designated in rules adopted by the Commission. In addition, each political committee that
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 files electronically with the PDC and is not exempt from filing reports under SMC

2 2.04.230 must file electronically with the City Clerk.

3 B. The Executive Director may exempt a candidate or a committee from the
4 requirements of this section where the candidate or the committee has shown that the
5 requirements constitute an undue burden.

6 Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days from and after its
7 approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after
8 presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

9 Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2010, and
10 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this
11 ____ day of _____, 2010.

12
13
14
15 _____
16 President _____ of the City Council

17 Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2010.

18
19
20 _____
21 Michael McGinn, Mayor

22 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2010.

23
24 _____
25 City Clerk

26 (Seal)