



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

**INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
LIMIT**

(City Clerk Myra Maravilla)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council introduce by title only and waive first reading of an Ordinance updating the campaign contribution limit to five hundred dollars (**Attachment 1**).

Executive Summary:

At its July 22, 2025 meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Detoy, supported by Councilmembers Keegan and Francois, requested an action item to update the City's established campaign contribution limit of \$250 set under Hermosa Beach Municipal Code (HBMC) Section 2.08.020 (**Attachment 2**) to an amount that would not trigger the requirements of the Levine Act.

It was also requested that general information be presented about the Levine Act (Government Code Section 84308) and about the recent updates to its regulated contribution limit (**Attachment 3**).

Background:

The Levine Act, codified as Government Code Section 84308, prohibits an elected official from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution exceeding the regulated contribution limit from a party or participant (or their agents) while:

1. A proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, including most contracts, is pending before the agency; and
2. For 12 months after a decision is made.

When a campaign contribution exceeds the established regulated contribution limit, the elected official is subject to disclosure, recusal, and other requirements.

In 2024, the Levine Act underwent considerable updates that became effective January 1, 2025, with SB 1243 (Dodd) (**Attachment 4**) and SB 1181 (Glazer) (**Attachment 5**). The changes to the Levine Act generally prohibit a party seeking a contract (other than competitively bid), license, permit, or other entitlements from making a contribution of

more than \$500 to an elected official in the preceding twelve months before an item is “pending” before the elected official. Prior to January 1, 2025, the regulated contribution limit was set to \$250.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) published an Advice Letter (**Attachment 6**) on January 31, 2025, to clarify that an elected official is not subject to the Levine Act when a contribution is made of \$500. The Levine Act would only be triggered should the contribution exceed five hundred dollars.

The City’s campaign contribution limit, codified as HBMC 2.08.020 is currently set at \$250 and therefore did not previously not trigger the Levine Act:

- A. No person shall make a contribution to any candidate for city elective office, nor shall any candidate for city elective office accept any contribution in aid of the election of a candidate to a city elective office which will cause the total given by such person with respect to a single election to exceed the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). This section shall not apply to amounts given by a candidate to his or her own campaign.
- B. Contributions by a husband and wife shall be treated as separate contributions and shall not be aggregated. Contributions by children under eighteen years of age shall be treated as contributions attributed equally to each parent or guardian.

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
January 11, 2011	City Council introduced Ordinance ORD-11-1320
January 25, 2011	City Council adopted Ordinance ORD-11-1320, amending the campaign contributions to two hundred and fifty dollars.

Discussion:

The updated regulated contribution limit of \$500 under the Levine Act provides the City Council the option to raise its contribution limit without triggering the disclosure and recusal requirements of the Levine Act.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

Attachments:

- 1. Draft Ordinance
- 2. Ordinance No. ORD-11-1320
- 3. Government Code Section 84308
- 4. SB 1243 (Dodd)
- 5. SB 1181 (Glazer)

6. FPPC Advice Letter A-25-009

Respectfully Submitted by: Myra Maravilla, City Clerk

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Todd Leishman, Interim City Attorney

Approved: Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager