



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Nicole Wheelwright, Deputy City Clerk
DATE: March 1, 2022
SUBJECT: Discussion of Assembly Bill 571 and Campaign Contribution Limits

Background and Analysis:

On October 8, 2019, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 571 with an effective date of January 1, 2021, setting campaign limits for elective city offices commensurate with State limits. Assembly Bill 571 also authorized cities to set their own campaign contribution limits to be different than the State limit. Cities may set a limit that is more restrictive or less restrictive than the current State limitation or choose no limit. If a City limit is established, enforcement standards for violations should also be adopted and can include civil or criminal penalties.

Prior to the enactment of the assembly bill, the City of Beaumont had no campaign contribution limits established within the Beaumont Municipal Code. Assembly Bill 571 is now in effect and by default, the City's campaign contribution limit is \$4,900 per contributor, per election. In the event that City Council adopts a limit or defaults to the State limit, the City Clerk's office would be tasked with monitoring contributions and compliance with the adopted limits.

City Council has the option to establish the following:

No adoption of City campaign contribution limits, thus imposing the State limitations, which is currently \$4,900; or

Establish City campaign contribution limits that differs from the State limitation, which could be drafted to establish no campaign contribution limits and direct City staff to prepare an ordinance for adoption.

Fiscal Impact:

City staff estimates the cost to prepare this report to be \$210.

Recommended Action:

Discussion and direction to City staff.

Attachments:

A. AB571