

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 10/14/03  
**Department Name:** Clerk, Recorder and Assessor  
**Department No.:** 062  
**Agenda Date:** 11/25/03  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 5 minutes  
**Continued Item:** YES  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Joseph E. Holland  
County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bob Smith, Elections Manager  
568-2002

**SUBJECT:** Second Hearing - County Ordinance Section 11B-1

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## **Recommendations:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Amend County Code Section 11B-1(e) to change the date that voluntary campaign expenditure limits are adjusted from January of every even numbered year to January of every odd-numbered year (Attachment A).

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with our organizational values regarding economy in government.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Proposition 34, a ballot measure that went into effect on January 1, 2001, established voluntary campaign contribution limits and expenditure limits for State candidates and made other major changes to the Political Reform Act of California. Proposition 34 added Section 83124 to the Political Reform Act, requiring that the contribution and expenditure limits be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index in January of every odd-numbered year.

Your Board established voluntary campaign expenditure limits before the State adopted such limits. Chapter 11B of the County Code took effect in January 2000. County Code 11B(e) is inconsistent with State law. It requires that voluntary expenditure limits be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index in January of every even-numbered year.

## **Background**

Candidates for countywide office, or consolidated office, including judicial offices, including auditor-controller, county clerk-recorder-assessor, district attorney, sheriff, treasurer-tax collector-public guardian, superintendent of education, superior court judge, and office of supervisor of the board of supervisors may accept voluntary expenditure limits based on residential population of the area served. Candidates who accept the voluntary expenditure limits may publish a Candidate's Statement in the Voter's Sample Ballot.

The expenditure limits for the March 2004 Primary Election will be re-calculated in January 2004, unless County Code Section 11B-1(e) is revised.

**Reasons for the Change in the Ordinance**

There are two reasons for this proposed change:

1. Current County Code 11B (e) is inconsistent with State law regarding the year used to calculate voluntary expenditure limits. State law requires that State legislative candidates' expenditure limits be adjusted in January of every odd numbered year; County Code requires that local candidates' expenditure limits be adjusted in January of every even numbered year.
2. The Candidates Guide is prepared in September of an odd-numbered year before a primary election in March of an even-numbered year. The expenditure limits for local candidates cannot be calculated until the January after the Candidates Guide is published.

This change will improve the efficiency of the Elections Office procedures, and will have little effect on candidates.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

This proposed change in the County Ordinance 11B-1(e) does not affect mandates or service levels.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

This proposed change requires that the expenditure limits be adjusted in January of every odd numbered year, beginning in the year 2003, to reflect any increase or decrease in the California Consumer Price Index for the preceding two years rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars. The first election to be effected by the change in these limits will be in March 2004 Primary Election.

It is expected that this change will result in lower campaign expenditure limits of approximately two and one-half (2.5%) percent for the March 2004 Primary Election and the November 2004 General Election.

The voluntary expenditure limits as of January 1, 2003 are:

| <b>Office</b>        | <b>Primary/Special</b> | <b>General/Runoff</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| State Senate         | \$637,000              | \$956,000             |
| State Assembly       | \$425,000              | \$744,000             |
| County Supervisor    | \$ 90,922              | \$ 90,922             |
| Countywide Officer   | \$166,200              | \$166,200             |
| Superior Court Judge | \$166,200              | \$166,200             |

There are no expenditure limits for U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative. There are voluntary expenditure limits for candidates for President of the United States who accept public funds.

These are voluntary expenditure limits and, therefore, may have no impact on candidates.

This change in County Code has no impact on facilities.

**Special Instructions:**

None.

**Concurrence:**

Not Applicable

Attachment A

ORDINANCE NO. 11-B-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF SANT BARBARA AMENDING SECTION 11B-1 (e), ARTICLE I, OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE TO CHANGE THE DATE TO ADJUST VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE CEILING

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara ordains as follows:

SECTION 11B-1. VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE LIMITS

Section 11B-1(e) of Article I of the Santa Barbara County Code is hereby amended to provide as follows:

(e) The expenditure limits contained herein shall be adjusted in January of every even numbered year, beginning in the year 2000, **changing to January of every odd numbered year beginning in the year 2003**, to reflect any increase or decrease in the California Consumer Price Index for the preceding two years rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars for the limitations on expenditures calculated by multiplying the adjusted expenditure ceiling by the number of residents in the electoral district.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2003, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

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Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:  
MICHAEL F. BROWN  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
STEPHEN SHANE STARK

By: \_\_\_\_\_