

Chapter 3.12 - THE CITY OF OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT*

Sections:

- Article I. - Findings and Purpose
- Article II. - Definitions
- Article III. - Contribution Limitations
- Article IV. - Expenditure Ceilings
- Article V. - Independent Expenditures
- Article VI. - Agency Responsibility
- Article VII. - Enforcement
- Article VIII. - Miscellaneous Provisions

Article I. - Findings and Purpose

- [3.12.010 - Title.](#)
- [3.12.020 - Findings and declarations.](#)
- [3.12.030 - Purpose of this Act.](#)

3.12.010 - Title.

This chapter shall be known as the city of Oakland Campaign Reform Act, hereinafter "the Act."

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.020 - Findings and declarations.

The Oakland City Council finds and declares each of the following:

- A. Monetary contributions to political campaigns are a legitimate form of participation in our political process, but the financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not enable them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.
- B. The rapidly increasing costs of political campaigns have forced many candidates to raise larger and larger percentages of money from interest groups with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by city government. This has caused the public perception that votes are being improperly influenced by monetary contributions. This perception is undermining the credibility and integrity of the governmental process.
- C. Candidates are raising less money in small contributions and more money in large individual and organizational contributions. This has created the public impression that the small contributor has an insignificant role to play in political campaigns.

D. High campaign costs are forcing officeholders to spend more time on fundraising and less time on the public's business. The constant pressure to raise contributions is distracting officeholders from urgent governmental matters.

E. Officeholders are responding to high campaign costs by raising larger amounts of money. This fundraising distracts them from important public matters, encourages contributions, which may have a corrupting influence, and gives incumbents an overwhelming and patently unfair fundraising advantage over potential challengers.

F. The integrity of the governmental process, the competitiveness of campaigns and public confidence in local officials are all diminishing.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.030 - Purpose of this Act.

The purpose of this Act is to accomplish the following:

A. To ensure that all individuals and interest groups in our city have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in elective and governmental processes.

B. To reduce the influence of large contributors with a specific financial stake in matters under consideration by the city, and to counter the perception that decisions are influenced more by the size of contributions than by the best interests of the people of Oakland.

C. To limit overall expenditures in campaigns, thereby reducing the pressure on candidates to raise large campaign war chests for defensive purposes, beyond the amount necessary to communicate reasonably with voters.

D. To reduce the advantage of incumbents and thus encourage competition for elective office.

E. To allow candidates and officeholders to spend a smaller proportion of their time on fundraising and a greater proportion of their time dealing with issues of importance to their constituents and the community.

F. To ensure that serious candidates are able to raise enough money to communicate their views and positions adequately to the public, thereby promoting public discussion of the important issues involved in political campaigns.

G. To help restore public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article II. - Definitions

[3.12.040 - Interpretation of this Act.](#)

3.12.040 - Interpretation of this Act.

Unless the term is specifically defined in this Act or the contrary is stated or clearly appears from the context, the definitions set forth in Government Code Sections 81000 et seq., as they appear in 1998 shall govern the interpretation of this Act.

"Broad-based political committee" means a committee of persons which has been in existence for more than six months, receives contributions from one hundred (100) or more persons, and acting in concert makes contributions to five or more candidates.

"City offices" for the purposes of this Act include: Mayor, City Attorney, City Auditor, City Councilmembers and School Board Directors.

"Election" means any election held in the City of Oakland for City office.

"Election cycle" means a four-year period preceding a term of office as defined by the Oakland City Charter, beginning on January 1st, and ending on December 31st of the fourth year thereafter.

"Person" means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business, trust, company, corporation, association, committee, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.

Qualified Campaign Expenditure.

1. "Qualified campaign expenditure" for candidates means and includes all of the following:
 - a. Any expenditure made by a candidate, officeholder or committee controlled by the candidate or officeholder, for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the actions of the voters for or against the election of any candidate for city office.
 - b. A nonmonetary contribution provided at the request of or with the approval of the candidate, officeholder or committee controlled by the candidate or officeholder.
2. "Qualified campaign expenditure" does not include any payment if it is clear from the surrounding circumstances that it was not made in any part for political purposes.

"Redevelopment Agency" means the Oakland Redevelopment Agency.

(Ord. No. 12998, § 1, 3-2-2010; Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article III. - Contribution Limitations

[3.12.050 - Limitations on contributions from persons.](#)

[3.12.060 - Limitations on contributions from broad-based political committees.](#)

[3.12.070 - Return of contributions.](#)

[3.12.080 - Aggregation of payments.](#)

[3.12.090 - Loans.](#)

[3.12.100 - Family contributions.](#)

[3.12.110 - One campaign committee and one checking account per candidate for city office.](#)

[3.12.120 - Money received by city officials and candidates treated as contributions, income or gifts.](#)

[3.12.130 - Identification of contributor required.](#)

[3.12.140 - Contractors doing business with the city of Oakland, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency or the Oakland Unified School District prohibited from making contributions.](#)

[3.12.150 - Officeholder fund.](#)

[3.12.160 - Allowance for donation of office space.](#)

[3.12.170 - Legal expense funds.](#)

[3.12.180 - Volunteer services exemption.](#)

3.12.050 - Limitations on contributions from persons.

A. No person shall make to any candidate for city office and the controlled committee of such a candidate, and no such candidate for city office and the candidate's controlled committee shall accept from any such person, a contribution or contributions totaling more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each election except as stated in subsection B of this section.

B. For candidates who adopt the expenditure ceilings as defined in Article IV of this Act, no person shall make to a candidate for city office and the controlled committee of such candidate, and no such candidate for city office and the controlled committee of such candidate shall accept contributions totaling more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) from any person for each election.

C. Any person who makes independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate for city office shall not accept any contribution for the purpose of influencing elections for city office in excess of the amounts stated in subsections A.

D. This section is not intended to prohibit or regulate contributions to persons or broad based political committees for the purpose of influencing elections for offices other than city offices.

E. Upon the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section, persons making independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate for city office shall separately account for contributions received and contributions or expenditures made for the purpose of influencing such elections for city office. Where a person has separately accounted for such contributions and expenditures for such elections for city office, contributors to that person may contribute more than the amount set forth in subsection A of this section, so long as no portion of the contribution in excess of the set forth amounts is used to influence elections for city office.

F. Candidates for city office shall not be held responsible for violations of this provision by any person.

G. Beginning January 1, 2001, the City Clerk shall once annually, on a calendar year basis, increase the contribution limitation amounts upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased. The increase of the contribution limitation amounts shall not exceed the CPI increase, using 1999 as the index year. The adjustment shall be rounded to the nearest one hundred (100). The City Clerk shall publish the contribution limitation amounts no later than February 1st of each year.

(Ord. 12260 § 1 (part), 2000; Ord. 12207 § 2, 2000; Ord. 12197 (part), 1999; Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.060 - Limitations on contributions from broad-based political committees.

A. No broad-based political committee shall make to any candidate for city office and the controlled

committee of such a candidate, nor shall a candidate and the candidate's controlled committee accept from a broad-based political committee, a contribution or contributions totaling more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each election except as stated in subsection B of this section.

B. For candidates who adopt the expenditure ceilings as defined in Article IV of this Act, no broad-based political committee shall make to any candidate for city office and the controlled committee of such candidate, nor shall a candidate and the candidate's controlled committee accept from a broad-based political committee, a contribution or contributions totaling more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each election.

C. Any broad-based political committee that makes independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate for city office shall not accept any contribution for the purpose of influencing elections for city office in excess of the amounts stated in subsection A of this section.

D. This section is not intended to prohibit or regulate contributions to persons or broad-based political committees for the purpose of influencing elections for offices other than city offices.

E. Upon the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section, a broad-based political committee making independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate for city office shall separately account for contributions received and contributions or expenditures made for the purpose of influencing such elections for city office. Where a broad-based political committee has separately accounted for such contributions and expenditures for such elections for city office, contributors to that broad-based political committee may contribute more than the amounts set forth in subsection A of this section, so long as no portion of the contribution in excess of the set forth amounts is used to influence elections for city office.

F. Candidates for city office shall not be held responsible for violations of this provision by any broad-based political committee.

G. Beginning January 1, 2001, the City Clerk shall once annually, on a calendar year basis, increase the contribution limitation amounts upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased. The increase of the contribution limitation amounts shall not exceed the CPI increase, using 1999 as the index year. The adjustment shall be rounded to the nearest one hundred (100). The City Clerk shall publish the contribution limitation amounts no later than February 1st of each year.

(Ord. 12260 § 1 (part), 2000; Ord. 12207 § 2, 2000; Ord. 12197 (part), 1999; Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.070 - Return of contributions.

A contribution shall not be considered received if it is not negotiated, deposited, or utilized, and in addition it is returned to the donor before the closing date of the campaign statement on which the contribution would otherwise be reported. In the case of a late contribution as defined in Government Code Section 82036, it shall not be deemed received if it is returned to the contributor within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.080 - Aggregation of payments.

For purposes of the contribution limitations enumerated in this Act, the following shall apply:

A. All payments made by a person, committee or broad-based political committee whose contributions or expenditure activity is financed, maintained or controlled by any corporation, labor organization, association, political party or any other person, committee or broad based political committee, including any parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department or local unit of the corporation, labor organization, association, political party or any other person, or by any group of such persons shall be considered to be made by a single person, committee or broad based political committee.

B. Two or more entities shall be treated as one person when any of the following circumstances apply:

1. The entities share the majority of members of their boards of directors.
2. The entities share two or more officers.
3. The entities are owned or controlled by the same majority shareholder or shareholders.
4. The entities are in a parent-subsidiary relationship.

C. An individual and any general or limited partnership in which the individual has more than a fifty (50) percent share, or an individual and any corporation in which the individual owns a controlling interest (more than fifty (50) percent), shall be treated as one person.

D. No committee and no broad-based political committee which supports or opposes a candidate for office shall have as officers individuals who serve as officers on any other committee which supports or opposes the same candidate. No such committee or broad-based political committee shall act in concert with, or solicit or make contributions on behalf of, any other committee or broad-based political committee. This subdivision shall not apply to treasurers of committees if these treasurers do not participate in or control in any way a decision on which a candidate or candidates receive contributions.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.090 - Loans.

A. A loan shall be considered a contribution from the maker and the guarantor of the loan and shall be subject to the contribution limitations of this Act.

B. Every loan to a candidate or the candidate's controlled committee shall be by written agreement and shall be filed with the candidate's or committee campaign statement on which the loan is first reported.

C. The proceeds of a loan made to a candidate by a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business on the same terms available to members of the public and which is secured or guaranteed shall not be subject to the contribution limitations of this Act.

D. Other than loans pursuant to subsection C of this section, extensions of credit in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for a period of more than ninety (90) days are subject to the contribution limitations of this Act, unless the candidate can demonstrate good faith evidence of an intent to repay through a set payment schedule which is being adhered to through repayment of the extension of credit on a regular basis.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.100 - Family contributions.

A. Contributions by a husband and wife shall be treated as separate contributions and shall not be aggregated.

B. Contributions by children under eighteen (18) years of age shall be treated as contributions by their parents and attributed proportionately to each parent (one-half to each parent or the total amount to a single custodial parent).

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.110 - One campaign committee and one checking account per candidate for city office.

A candidate for city office shall have no more than one campaign committee and one checking account for the city office being sought, out of which all expenditures for that office shall be made. This section should not prohibit the establishment of savings accounts, but no qualified campaign expenditures shall be made out of these accounts.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.120 - Money received by city officials and candidates treated as contributions, income or gifts.

Any funds received by any elected city official or candidate running in the jurisdiction or any committee controlled by such an official or candidate shall be considered either a campaign contribution, income or a gift. All campaign contributions received by such persons shall be subject to the provisions of this Act unless such campaign contributions are used exclusively for elections held outside the jurisdiction. All income and gifts shall be subject to the disqualification provisions of the Political Reform Act, Government Code Sections 87100 et seq.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.130 - Identification of contributor required.

No contribution of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more shall be deposited into a campaign checking account of a candidate for city office unless the name, address, occupation, and employer of the contributor is on file in the records of the recipient of the contribution.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.140 - Contractors doing business with the city of Oakland, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency or the Oakland Unified School District prohibited from making contributions.

A. No person who contracts or proposes to contract with or who amends or proposes to amend such a contract with the city for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the city or for selling any land or building to the city or for purchasing any land or building from the city whenever the value of such transaction would require approval by the City Council shall make any contribution to the Mayor, a candidate for Mayor, a City Councilmember, a candidate for City Council, the City Attorney, a candidate for City Attorney, the City Auditor, a candidate for City Auditor, or committee controlled by such officeholder or candidate at any time between

commencement of negotiations and either one hundred eighty (180) days after the completion of, or the termination of, negotiations for such contract.

B. No person who contracts or proposes to contract with or who amends or proposes to amend such a contract with the Redevelopment Agency for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the Redevelopment Agency or for selling any land or building to the Redevelopment Agency or for purchasing any land or building from the Redevelopment Agency, whenever the value of such transaction would require approval by the Redevelopment Agency, shall make any contribution to the Mayor, a candidate for Mayor, a City Councilmember, a candidate for City Council, the City Attorney, a candidate for City Attorney, the City Auditor, a candidate for City Auditor, or committee controlled by such officeholder or candidate at any time between commencement of negotiations and either one hundred eighty (180) days after the completion of, or the termination of, negotiations for such contract.

C. No person who contracts or proposes to contract with or who amends or proposes to amend such a contract with the Oakland School District, for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the School District or for selling any land or building to the School District or for purchasing any land or building from the School District whenever the value of such transaction would require approval the School Board, shall make any contribution to a School Board member, candidate for School Board Directors or committee controlled by such officeholder or candidate at any time between commencement of negotiations and either one hundred eighty (180) days after the completion of, or the termination of, negotiations for such contract.

D. "Services" means and includes labor, professional services, consulting services, or a combination of services and materials, supplies, commodities and equipment which shall include public works projects.

E. For contributions to city officers other than School Board Directors, transactions that require approval by the City Council or Redevelopment Agency include but are not limited to:

1. Contracts for the procurement of services that are professional or consulting services exceeding fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).
2. Contracts for the procurement of services exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), other than contracts for professional or consulting services.
3. Contracts for the furnishing of any materials, supplies, commodities or equipment exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00).
4. Contracts for the sale of any building or land to or from the city or the Redevelopment Agency.
5. Amendments to contracts described in subsections (E)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section.

F. For contributions to School Board Directors, transactions that require approval by the School Board include but are not limited to:

1. Professional services and consulting contracts exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), including personal service agreements.
2. Contracts requiring School Board approval under Public Contract Code Section 20111.

Title 3 - MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
Chapter 3.12 - THE CITY OF OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT*
Article VIII. - Miscellaneous Provisions

3. Construction contracts exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) whether or not they are subject to the provisions of the Public Contract Code.
4. Contracts for the sale of any building or land to or from the School District.
5. Amendments to contracts described in subsections (F)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section.

G. "Commencement of negotiations" for city contracts occurs when a contractor or contractor's agent formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment to any elected or appointed city officer or employee or when any elected or appointed city officer or employee formally proposes submission of a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment from a contractor or contractor's agent.

H. "Commencement of negotiations" for Redevelopment Agency contracts occurs when a contractor or contractor's agent formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment to any elected or appointed Redevelopment Agency officer or employee or when any elected or appointed Redevelopment Agency officer or employee formally proposes submission of a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment from a contractor or contractor's agent.

I. "Commencement of negotiations" for Oakland School District contracts occurs when a contractor or contractor's agent formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment to any elected or appointed School District officer or employee or when any elected or appointed School District officer or employee formally proposes submission of a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment from a contractor or contractor's agent.

J. "Commencement of negotiations" does not include unsolicited receipt of proposal or contract information or documents related to them, requests to be placed on mailing lists or routine inquiries for information about a particular contract, request for proposal or any information or documents relating to them or attendance at an informational meeting.

K. "Completion of negotiations" occurs when the city, the Redevelopment Agency or the School District executes the contract or amendment.

L. "Termination of negotiations" occurs when the contract or amendment is not awarded to the contractor or when the contractor files a written withdrawal from the negotiations, which is accepted by an appointed or elected City officer, Redevelopment Agency officer, City employee or Redevelopment Agency employee or an appointed or elected School District officer or employee.

M. The Oakland City Manager shall be responsible for implementing procedures for City of Oakland and Redevelopment Agency contracts to ensure contractor compliance with the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. A proposed or current contractor must sign and date the following statement at the time the contractor formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment:

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act limits campaign contributions and prohibits contributions from contractors doing business with the City of Oakland, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency or the Oakland Unified School District during specified time periods. Violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

I have read Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 3.12, including section 3.12.140, the contractor provisions of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, and certify that I/we have not knowingly, nor will I/we make contributions prohibited by the Act.

Title 3 - MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
Chapter 3.12 - THE CITY OF OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT*
Article VIII. - Miscellaneous Provisions

Business Name

Date

Signature

The signed and dated statement must be received and filed by the City Clerk at the same time the proposal is submitted. Contracts may not be awarded to any contractors who have not signed this certification. The City Clerk shall keep an updated list of current contractors available for inspection.

N. The Oakland Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for implementing procedures for Oakland School District contracts to ensure contractor compliance with the Oakland Campaign Reform Act. A proposed or current contractor must sign and date the following statement at the time the contractor formally submits a bid, proposal, qualifications or contract amendment:

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act limits campaign contributions and prohibits contributions from contractors doing business with the City of Oakland, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency or the Oakland Unified School District during specified time periods. Violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

I have read Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 3.12, including section 3.12.140, the contractor provisions of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, and certify that I/we have not knowingly, nor will I/we make contributions prohibited by the Act.

Business Name

Date

Signature

The signed and dated statement must be received and filed with the School District at the same time the proposal is submitted. Contracts may not be awarded to any contractors who have not signed this certification. The School District shall keep an updated list of current contractors available for inspection.

O. A person who contracts with the City, the Redevelopment Agency or the School District for the rendition of services, for the furnishing of any material, supplies, commodities or equipment to the City, the Redevelopment Agency or the School District, or for selling any land or building to the City, the Redevelopment Agency or the School District or for purchasing any land or building from the Redevelopment Agency or the School District, whenever the value of such transaction would require approval by the City Council, the Redevelopment Agency or the School Board, and who violates subsection A of this section, shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of Article VII of this Act.

P. Elected city officeholders, candidates for city office and their controlled committees shall include a notice on all campaign fundraising materials equivalent to eight point roman boldface type, which shall be in a color or print which contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible, and in a printed or drawn box and set apart from any other printed matter. The notice shall consist of the following statement:

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act limits campaign contributions by all persons (OMC §§ 3.12.050 and 3.12.060) and prohibits contributions during specified time periods from contractors doing business with the City of Oakland, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency or the Oakland

Unified School District (OMC § 3.12.140, paragraphs A., B., and C.).

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.150 - Officeholder fund.

A. Every elected city officeholder shall be permitted to establish one officeholder expense fund. All contributions deposited into the officeholder expense fund shall be deemed to be held in trust for expenses associated with holding the office currently held by the elected city officer. Contributions to the officeholder fund must be made by a separate check or other separate written instrument. Single contributions may not be divided between the officeholder fund and any other candidate committee. For District Councilmembers, City Auditor and School Board Directors total contributions to an officeholder fund shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year in office. For Councilmember-At-Large and City Attorney, total contributions to an officeholder fund shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) per year in office. For the office of the Mayor, total contributions to an officeholder fund shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) per year in office.

B. Expenditures from an officeholder fund may be made for any political, governmental or other lawful purpose, but may not be used for any of the purposes prohibited in subsection (C)(1) through (5) of this section. Such allowable expenditures shall include, but are not limited to the following categories:

1. Expenditures for fundraising (including solicitations by mail) for the officeholder expense fund;
2. Expenditures for office equipment, furnishings and office supplies;
3. Expenditures for office rent;
4. Expenditures for salaries of part-time or full-time staff employed by the officeholder for officeholder activities;
5. Expenditures for consulting, research, polling, photographic or similar services except for campaign expenditures for any city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
6. Expenditures for conferences, meetings, receptions, and events attended in the performance of government duties by (1) the officeholder (2) a member of the officeholder's staff; or (3) such other person designated by the officeholder who is authorized to perform such government duties;
7. Expenditures for travel, including lodging, meals and other related disbursements, incurred in the performance of governmental duties by (1) the officeholder, (2) a member of the officeholder's staff, (3) such other person designated by the officeholder who is authorized to perform such government duties, or a member of such person's household accompanying the person on such travel;
8. Expenditures for meals and entertainment directly preceding, during or following a governmental or legislative activity;
9. Expenditures for donations to tax-exempt educational institutions or tax exempt charitable, civic or service organizations, including the purchase of tickets to charitable or civic events, where no substantial part of the proceeds will have a material financial effect on the elected officer, any member of his or her immediate family, or his or her committee treasurer;

Title 3 - MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
Chapter 3.12 - THE CITY OF OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT*
Article VIII. - Miscellaneous Provisions

10. Expenditures for memberships to civic, service or professional organizations, if such membership bears a reasonable relationship to a governmental, legislative or political purpose;
11. Expenditures for an educational course or educational seminar if the course or seminar maintains or improves skills which are employed by the officeholder or a member of the officeholder's staff in the performance of his or her governmental responsibilities;
12. Expenditures for advertisements in programs, books, testimonials, souvenir books, or other publications if the advertisement does not support or oppose the nominations or election of a candidate for city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
13. Expenditures for mailing to persons within the city which provide information related to city-sponsored events, school district-sponsored events, an official's governmental duties or an official's position on a particular matter pending before the Council, Mayor, or School Board;
14. Expenditures for expressions of congratulations, appreciation or condolences sent to constituents, employees, governmental officials, or other persons with whom the officeholder communicates in his or her official capacity;
15. Expenditures for payment of tax liabilities incurred as a result of authorized officeholder expense fund transactions;
16. Expenditures for accounting, professional and administrative services provided to the officeholder fund;
17. Expenditures for ballot measures.

C. Officeholder expense funds shall not be used for the following:

1. Expenditures in connection with a future election for any city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
2. Expenditures for campaign consulting, research, polling, photographic or similar services for election to city, county, regional, state or federal elective office;
3. Membership in any athletic, social, fraternal, veteran or religious organization;
4. Supplemental compensation for employees for performance of an act which would be required or expected of the person in the regular course or hours of his or her duties as a city official or employee;
5. Any expenditure that would violate the provisions the California State Political Reform Act, including Government Code Sections 89506 and 89512 through 89519.

D. No funds may be transferred from the officeholder fund of an elected city officeholder to any other candidate committee.

E. Annual contributions received by or made to the officeholder fund shall be subject to the contribution limitations of Article III of this Act.

F. Expenditures made from the officeholder fund shall not be subject to the voluntary expenditure ceilings of Article IV of this Act.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.160 - Allowance for donation of office space.

A. Donation of office space for use by city officeholders in furtherance of their duties and responsibilities by a person or broad based political committee shall not be considered a campaign contribution subject to the provisions of this Act, provided that:

1. The donation is made to the City and accepted pursuant to Oakland City Charter Section 1203 for use by the Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Attorney or City Auditor or in the case of School Board Directors, the donation is made to the Oakland Unified School District; and
2. The name, address, employer, and occupation of the donor, and the current market value of the donated office space, are provided to the City Clerk.

B. Use of office space donated pursuant to this section by a city officeholder shall not be considered a "qualified campaign expenditure" pursuant to Section 3.12.040 of this Act.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.170 - Legal expense funds.

A. An elected city officeholder or candidate for city office may receive contributions for a separate legal expense fund, for deposit into a separate account, to be used solely to defray attorney's fees and other legal costs incurred in the candidate's or officeholder's legal defense to any civil, criminal, or administrative action or actions arising directly out of the conduct of the campaign or election process, or the performance of the candidate's or officeholder's governmental activities and duties. Contributions to the legal expense fund must be earmarked by the contributor for contribution to the fund at the time the contribution is made. All funds contributed to an officeholder or candidate for legal expense fund must be deposited into the officeholder's appropriate campaign bank account prior to being deposited into the legal expense fund. The legal expense fund may be in the form of a certificate of deposit, interest-bearing savings account, money market account, or similar account, which shall be established only for the legal expense fund.

B. Contributions received by or made to the legal expense fund shall not be subject to the contribution limitations of Article III of this Act.

C. Expenditures made from the legal expense fund shall not be subject to the voluntary expenditure ceilings of Article IV of this Act.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.180 - Volunteer services exemption.

Volunteer personal services, and payments made by an individual for his or her own travel expenses if such payments are made voluntarily without any understanding or agreement that they shall be directly or indirectly repaid to him or her, are not contributions or expenditures subject to this Act.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article IV. - Expenditure Ceilings

[3.12.190 - Expenditure ceilings.](#)

[3.12.200 - Amount of expenditure ceilings.](#)

[3.12.210 - Reserved.](#)

[3.12.220 - Expenditure ceilings lifted.](#)

3.12.190 - Expenditure ceilings.

All candidates for city office who adopt campaign expenditure ceilings as defined below are permitted the higher contribution limit as defined in Sections 3.12.050C and 3.12.060C of this Act. Before accepting any contributions at the higher contribution limit, candidates who adopt voluntary expenditure ceilings must first file a statement with the City Clerk on a form approved for such purpose indicating acceptance of the expenditure ceiling. Said statement shall be filed no later than the time for filing for candidacy with the City Clerk. This statement will be made public.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.200 - Amount of expenditure ceilings.

A candidate for office of Mayor who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified expenditures exceeding seventy cents (\$.70) per resident for each election in which the candidate is seeking elective office. A candidate for other citywide offices who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified expenditures exceeding fifty cents (\$.50) per resident for each election in which the candidate is seeking office. A candidate for District City Councilmember who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified expenditures exceeding one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per resident in the electoral district for each election in which the candidate is seeking elective office. A candidate for School Board Director who voluntarily agrees to expenditure ceilings shall not make qualified campaign expenditures exceeding one dollar (\$1.00) per resident for each election in the electoral district for each election for which the candidate is seeking office. Residency of each electoral district shall be determined by the latest decennial census population figures available for that district.

Beginning in 1999, the City Clerk shall once annually on a calendar year basis increase the expenditure ceiling amounts upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased. The increase of the expenditure ceiling amounts shall not exceed the CPI increase, using 1998 as the index year. The increase shall be rounded to the nearest thousand. The City Clerk shall publish the expenditure ceiling amounts no later than February 1st of each year.

(Ord. 12197 (part), 1999; Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.210 - Reserved.

Editor's note— Ord. No. 12998, § 1, adopted March 2, 2010, repealed the former section 3.12.210 in its entirety, which pertained to time periods for expenditures, and derived from Ord. No. 12158, adopted 1999.

3.12.220 - Expenditure ceilings lifted.

If a candidate declines to accept expenditure ceilings and receives contributions or make qualified campaign expenditures equal to fifty (50) percent or more of the expenditure ceiling, or if an independent expenditure committee in the aggregate spends more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) on a District City Council or School Board election or seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) in a City Attorney, Auditor, Councilmember-at-Large or Mayoral election, the applicable expenditure ceiling shall no longer be binding on any candidate running for the same office, and any candidate running for the same office who accepted expenditure ceilings shall be permitted to continue receiving contributions at the amounts set for such candidates in Sections 3.12.050C and 3.12.060C of this Act. The independent expenditure committee amounts of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) and seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) respectively, shall be increased in proportion to any increase of the voluntary expenditure ceiling amounts resulting from an increase in the CPI as provided by Section 3.12.180 of this chapter.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article V. - Independent Expenditures

[3.12.230 - Independent expenditures for mass mailings, state mailings or other campaign materials.](#)

3.12.230 - Independent expenditures for mass mailings, state mailings or other campaign materials.

Any person who makes independent expenditures for a mass mailing, slate mailing or other campaign materials which support or oppose any candidate for city office shall place the following statement on the mailing in typeface of no smaller than fourteen points:

Notice to Voters

(Required by the City of Oakland)

This mailing is not authorized or approved by any City candidate or election official.

It is paid for

by (name)

.....(address, city, state)

Total cost of this mailing is: (amount)

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article VI. - Agency Responsibility

[3.12.240 - Duties of the Public Ethics Commission.](#)

[3.12.250 - Duties of the City Clerk.](#)

3.12.240 - Duties of the Public Ethics Commission.

The Public Ethics Commission shall:

- A. Oversee compliance with the Act.
- B. Propose necessary regulations in furtherance of this Act subject to City Council approval.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.250 - Duties of the City Clerk.

The City Clerk shall prescribe the necessary forms for filing the appropriate statements.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article VII. - Enforcement

[3.12.260 - Public Ethics Commission as enforcing body.](#)

[3.12.270 - Criminal misdemeanor actions.](#)

[3.12.280 - Enforcement actions.](#)

[3.12.290 - Injunctive relief.](#)

[3.12.300 - Cost of litigation.](#)

[3.12.310 - Disqualification.](#)

3.12.260 - Public Ethics Commission as enforcing body.

The Public Ethics Commission is the sole body for civil enforcement of this Act. In the event criminal violations of the Act come to the attention of the Public Ethics Commission, the commission shall promptly advise in writing the City Attorney and the appropriate prosecuting enforcement agency.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.270 - Criminal misdemeanor actions.

Any person who knowingly or willfully violates Articles III, IV, or V of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any person who knowingly or wilfully causes any other person to violate any provision of the Act, or who knowingly or wilfully aids and abets any other person in violation of any provision of this Act, shall be liable under the provisions of this section. Prosecution for violation of any provision of this Act shall be commenced within four years after the date on which the violation occurred.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.280 - Enforcement actions.

- A. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates Articles III, IV or V of this Act is subject to enforcement proceedings before the Public Ethics Commission pursuant to the Public Ethics Commission General Rules of Procedure.
- B. If two or more persons are responsible for any violation, they shall be jointly and severally liable.
- C. Any person alleging a violation of Articles III, IV or V of this Act shall first file with the Public Ethics Commission a written complaint on a form approved for such purpose. The complaint shall contain a statement of the grounds for believing a violation has occurred. The Commission shall respond within ninety (90) days after receipt of the complaint indicating whether there is probable cause to conduct a hearing and whether mediation will be undertaken.
- D. If mediation is not undertaken, if any party refuses mediation, or if mediation is unsuccessful in resolving the issues raised in the complaint, the Commission may within ninety (90) days thereafter convene a hearing. The Commission has full authority to settle any action filed by or on behalf of the Commission in the interest of justice.
- E. If the Commission determines a violation has occurred, the Commission is hereby authorized to administer appropriate penalties and fines not to exceed three times the amount of the unlawful contribution or expenditure.
- F. No complaint alleging a violation of any provision of this Act shall be filed more than two years after the date the violation occurred.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.290 - Injunctive relief.

The Public Ethics Commission may sue for injunctive relief to enjoin violations or to compel compliance with the provisions of this Act.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.300 - Cost of litigation.

The court may award to a complainant or respondent who prevails in any action for injunctive relief, his or her costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.310 - Disqualification.

In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, if an official receives a contribution in violation of Sections 3.12.050 and 3.12.060, the official shall not be permitted to make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which the contributor has a financial interest. The provisions of Government Code Sections 87100 et seq. and the regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission shall apply to interpretations of this section.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

Article VIII. - Miscellaneous Provisions

[3.12.320 - Applicability of other laws.](#)

[3.12.330 - Severability.](#)

3.12.320 - Applicability of other laws.

Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person from applicable provisions of any other laws of this state or jurisdiction.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)

3.12.330 - Severability.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provisions of this Act are severable.

(Ord. 12158 (part), 1999)