

Campaign Contribution Limits Discussion

Town Council Meeting
June 17, 2026



TOWN OF
**CHAPEL
HILL**

Recommended Action

Council provide direction to staff on formula for setting campaign contribution limits.

Background & Context

- Routine consent agenda item that sets limits in even-numbered years
- Item pulled from the April 15, 2026 consent agenda

Legislative Context

- Local limits established in 1999 by special legislation
- Adjusted formula adopted in 2010 = Consumer Price Index (CPI) + voter baseline
- 2017 amendment clarifying incremental CPI (since prior even year)

Comparison: Other NC Municipalities

- Local limits (like Chapel Hill's) require special authority
- Most NC Municipalities follow State Board of Elections
- State limit currently \$6,800 per election
 - 2025-2026: \$6800
 - 2023-2024: \$6400
 - 2021-2022: \$5600
 - 2019-2020: \$5400
 - 2017-2018: \$5200

**Current
Formula:
CPI +
Active
Registered
Voters**

2024:

- Contribution Limit: \$367
- Disclosure Limit: \$38

2026:

- Contribution Limit: \$353
- Disclosure Limit: \$37

Alternative Formula: CPI-only Calculation

- **Current Formula**
 - Contribution Limit: \$353
 - Disclosure Limit: \$37
- **CPI-Only Calculation**
 - Contribution Limit: \$390
 - Disclosure Limit: \$40

Options for Council Direction

- Keep current formula
- CPI only
- Another option?

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