



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

Town Hall
405 Martin Luther King Jr.
Boulevard
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Legislation Text

File #: [20-0296], Version: 1

Amend Chapter 2, Article IV, 2-72 of the Town Code of Ordinances Regarding Campaign Contribution Limitations.

Staff:

Maurice Jones

Ralph D. Karpinos

Department:

Town Manager

Town Attorney

Overview: The Town established campaign contribution limits in 1999 pursuant to special legislation enacted by the General Assembly. Chapter 2, Article IV, of the Town Code of Ordinances limits the amount of money that an individual or a political committee can contribute to a Mayor or Town Council candidate's campaign. The Ordinance also establishes a maximum contribution that can be made without disclosing the contributor's name in municipal campaign reports. Ordinance [Section 2-73](#) https://library.municode.com/nc/chapel_hill/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CO_CH2AD_ARTIVCADICOLI_S2-73ADCRDICOLICO requires that these amounts be adjusted during even-numbered years and provides criteria for making these adjustments based on the number of Town of Chapel Hill registered voters and changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since January 1st of the prior even-numbered year. The adjustments proposed for tonight, if enacted, will apply to the 2021 municipal campaigns.

☆ **Recommendation(s):**

That the Council enact the attached ordinance to increase the municipal campaign maximum contribution to \$378.00 and the contribution disclosure exemption to \$39.00 as required by ordinance.

Background:

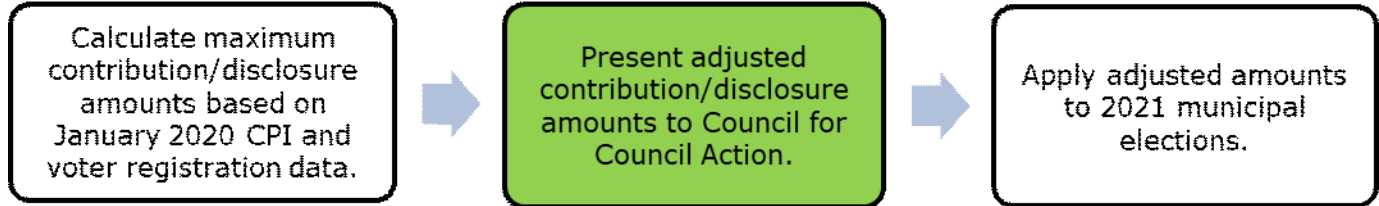
- In 2019, the maximum amount that an individual or political committee could donate to a municipal candidate's campaign was \$361.00 and the names of contributors donating \$37.00 or less were exempt from disclosure in campaign reports.
- The 2019 amounts were established [May 23, 2018](#) <https://chapelhill.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3508314&GUID=A6BE5B34-490B-4359->
- Sec. 2-72 was amended on [November 20, 2019](#) <https://chapelhill.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4244232&GUID=43979AE7-7082-4F33-> to update State statute references.

Decision Points:

- Based on data obtained for January 2020 (as required by Sec. 2-73 of the Town Code), the CPI had increased by 4.46% since January 2018 and active voter registration for the Town of Chapel Hill was 38,373.
- Based on the adjustment criteria established in Ordinance Sec. 2-73, maximum contribution and disclosure exemption amounts should be increased to \$378.00 and \$39.00, respectively.

Fiscal Impact/Resources: None to the Town

Where is this item in its process?



Attachments:

- Ordinance
- Disclosure and Contribution Adjustments Worksheet

The Agenda will reflect the text below and/or the motion text will be used during the meeting.

By enacting the ordinance, the Council increases the municipal campaign maximum contribution to \$378.00 and the contribution disclosure exemption to \$39.00 as required by ordinance.