



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

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

Legislation Text

File #: [18-0459], Version: 1

Adjust Municipal Campaign Contributions and Disclosure Limits as Required by Ordinance.

Staff:

Roger L. Stancil
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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 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 2019 municipal campaigns.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Council enact the attached ordinance to increase the municipal campaign maximum contribution to \$361.00 and the contribution disclosure exemption to \$37.00 as required by ordinance.

Background:

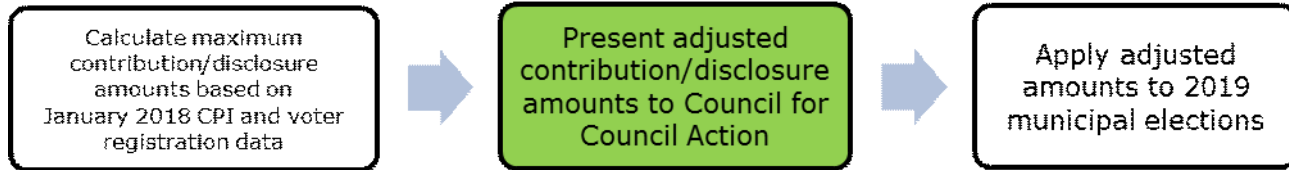
- In 2017, the maximum amount that an individual or political committee could donate to a municipal candidate's campaign was \$353.00 and the names of contributors donating \$36.00 or less were exempt from disclosure in campaign reports.
- The 2017 amounts were established on [October 26, 2016](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=2923&meta_id=145877) [using the criteria that were in place at that time.](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=2923&meta_id=145877)
- On [February 27, 2017](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=3040&meta_id=153611) [the Council made a technical correction to the ordinance to eliminate language that had resulted in increases greater than those which otherwise would have occurred had calculations used only the changes to the CPI since the previous adjustment.](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&clip_id=3040&meta_id=153611)
- Staff of the Town Attorney's Office and Business Management Department collaborated to incorporate the adjustment criteria described in the Ordinance into the attached spreadsheet that uses formulas to consistently calculate the adjustments. That spreadsheet was used to arrive at the adjustments in the attached Ordinance.

Decision Points:

- Based on data obtained for January 2018 (as required by Sec. 2-73 of the Town Code), the CPI had increased by 2.4% since January 2016 and active voter registration for the Town of Chapel Hill was 39,382.
- Based on the adjustment criteria established in Ordinance Sec. 2-73, maximum contribution and disclosure exemption amounts should be increased to \$361.00 and \$37.

Fiscal Impact/Resources: None

Where is this item in its process?



Council Goals:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Create a Place for Everyone | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Develop Good Places, New Spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | Support Community Prosperity | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Nurture Our Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | Facilitate Getting Around | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Grow Town and Gown Collaboration |



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 \$361.00 and the contribution disclosure exemption to \$37.00 as required by ordinance.