

# Item 7.4 Campaign Contributions: CVMC 2.52 Campaign Contribution Ordinance

Presented By:

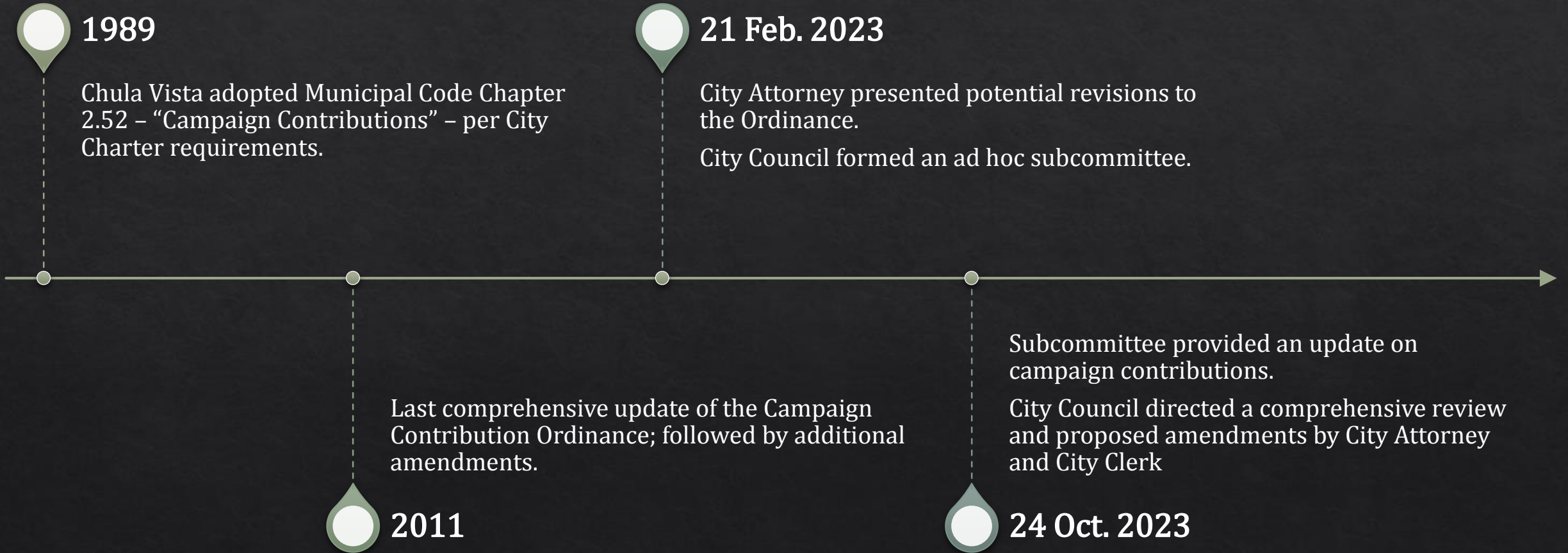
City Clerk Kerry Bigelow &

City Attorney Marco A. Verdugo

August 5, 2025



# Brief History



- ◆ It is the policy of the City to avoid the potential for undue or improper influence over Elected Officials resulting from excessive campaign contributions. In furtherance of that purpose, the City Council shall adopt reasonable regulations related to campaign contributions which shall be contained in the Municipal Code.

## Chula Vista Charter Sec. 905 Regulations of Campaign Contributions

# Recommended Changes for Clarity and Removal of Duplicative Provisions

## A. Clarify Time Period for Accepting Donations

- **Current:** 11 months before the election (*2.52.040(E)*)
- **Proposed:** The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month before the election (*2.52.045(A)*)

## B. Requirement to Send Registered Mail Notification to Opponents

- **Current:** Required to send notification via registered mail when spending or contributing more than \$5,000 of personal funds (*2.52.060*)
- **Proposed:** Eliminate notification requirement; notice is required via FPPC Form 497 for all contributions received over \$1,000 in the 90 days leading up to the election

# Recommended Changes for Clarity and Removal of Duplicative Provisions

## C. Clarify Enforcement Processing and Obligations

- Add provisions *(2.52.140 et seq)*:
  - Enforcement Authority to reach final determination within 180 days
  - Opportunity for subject of the complaint to respond
  - Specify records related to enforcement are public documents

## D. Duties of the City Clerk

- Remove specified duties of the City Clerk from the Code; duties are provided for and expanded in state law *(2.52.130)*



# Recommended Changes for Clarity and Removal of Duplicative Provisions

## E. Other Provisions

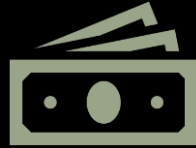
- Remove requirement that campaign account be at a bank in San Diego County; existing state law requires the account to be in California *(2.52.070)*
- Update terms to reflect new Charter language enacted by Measure K (e.g., “Primary” and “General” election, vs. “General” and “Special”)
- Increase the font size of required notices from 6 pt. to 8 pt. *(2.52.100)*
- Other revisions to add defined terms, remove ambiguity, reformat and reorganize, and remove provisions that are duplicative of state law

# Policy Areas for Consideration



Contribution  
limits

Individuals  
Political Party  
Committees  
Businesses/  
corporations



Limit for loans to own  
committee



Time period to repay  
outstanding debt

# Contribution Limits – From Individuals

## Current limit:

- \$440 per election contest *(2.52.040(A))*

## Proposal based on 5/13/25 City Council direction:

- \$800 for City Council District seats
- \$1,200 for Citywide seats (i.e. Mayor and City Attorney)



# Contribution Limits – From Political Party Committees

Current limit:

- \$1,530 per election contest *(2.52.040(B))*

Proposal based on 5/13/25 City Council direction:

- \$1,530 (no change)

# Contribution Limits – From Corporations

## Current limit:

- \$0, contributions from organizations are prohibited (*2.52.040(C)*)

## Proposal based on 5/13/25 City Council direction:

- Same limit as contributions from individuals:
  - \$800 for City Council District seats
  - \$1,200 for Citywide seats (i.e. Mayor and City Attorney)

# Amount a Candidate Can Loan Themselves

Current limit:

- \$5,000 per election contest *(2.52.050(A))*

Proposal based on 5/13/25 City Council direction:

- \$5,000 (no changes)

# Time Period to Repay Loans and Debts

Current period:

- Not specified

Proposal based on 5/13/25 City Council direction:

- **12 months of the election**

# Penalty for Intentionally Filing a False Complaint

Current penalty:

- \$1,000

Proposal based on 5/13/25 City Council direction:

- \$2,500



1. Place the ordinance on first reading as presented
2. Consider separate actions for:
  - ◊ General updates
  - ◊ Contribution limits
    - ◊ Individual
    - ◊ Political Party Committee
    - ◊ Organizations/Corporations
  - ◊ Limits for candidates' loans to themselves
  - ◊ Time period to repay loans and debts
  - ◊ Penalty for filing a false complaint

## Possible Actions



Questions?