

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures is essential for providing political transparency and ensuring Austinites' public faith in the integrity of our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, providing the public with the ability to get timely access to download and electronically search contribution, expenditure, and other campaign data greatly enhances transparency; and

WHEREAS, requiring electronic filing (E-Filing) of campaign reports in a downloadable, searchable database format is now common in the United States; and

WHEREAS, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 20120426-087, amending Chapter 2-2 of the City Code to create a publicly available, searchable, and downloadable database of all campaign finance and lobbying reports filed with the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the adoption of this ordinance, the City Clerk was to report to the Council on the implementation of the database, including an estimate of the cost; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2012, the City Clerk reported that the implementation of this database would have cost impacts up to \$844,000; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20120426-087 was subsequently repealed; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20120927-089 was adopted and, in anticipation of legislative action to make the state's Campaign Finance Reform Databases available to municipalities, directed the City Clerk and City Manager to work with the Open Government Working Group of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission to explore options and prototypes for an electronic campaign finance database; and

WHEREAS, the City's next municipal elections will occur in 2016; and

WHEREAS, all candidates, political committees, and makers of independent expenditures have the capacity today to use the simple software required to file campaign reports electronically; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to develop an ordinance for Council consideration within 90 days that requires all candidates, makers of independent expenditures, and political committees that are involved in influencing City elections to file their reports in an electronic format that allows for public access to a downloadable, searchable database with standard queries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Clerk and City Manager are directed to develop and implement a basic, cost-effective E-Filing system with a downloadable, searchable database that will be tested and fully functioning no later than January 1, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to develop a series of standard public queries, such as a list of all donations from a specific donor, that will be tested and fully functioning by no later than January 1, 2016.

ADOPTED: _____, 2015

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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