



ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 20170412-04A

Date: April 12, 2017

Subject: Proposed amendments to Austin City Code §§ 2-2-2 and 2-2-7 regarding the period during which candidates may fundraise

Motioned By: Commission Member Brian Thompson

Seconded By: Commission Member Dennis Speight

Recommendation:

The Commission recommends that the attached amendments proposed by Council Member Pool be approved.

Vote: 8 - 0

For: Chair Peter Einhorn, Secretary Robert “Ben” Stratmann, Meagan Harding, Fredda Holmes, Donna Beth McCormick, Paul Quinzi, Dennis Speight, and Brian Thompson

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Debra Danburg, Matthew Lamon, J. Michael Ohueri

Attest:

Cynthia Tom, Commission Executive Liaison

Amend City Code § 2-2-2 (DEFINITIONS) as follows:

CAMPAIGN PERIOD means the time periods allowed in Section 2-2-7, City Charter Article III, Section 8 (~~*Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures*~~)

Amend City Code § 2-2-7 (COMMENCEMENT OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD) as follows:

(A) A general election, special election, and a runoff election each have a separate campaign period for purposes of City Charter Article III, Section 8 (*Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures*) and this chapter. “Per election” in City Charter, Article III, Section 8 means the contribution limits in the Charter apply separately for a general election, special election, and a runoff period.

(B) The campaign period for a general election begins 365 days before the date of the general election.

(1) For candidates who win a general election, the general election campaign period ends after they pay off their remaining extant campaign debt and fund their officeholder account, or 180 days after the general election, whichever occurs earlier.

(2) For candidates who lose a general election, the general election campaign period ends when they pay off their remaining extant campaign debt.

(C)The campaign period for a runoff election begins the day after the date of an Election at which no candidate receives the majority of the votes.

1) For candidates who win a runoff election, the runoff campaign period ends after they pay off their remaining extant campaign debt and fund their officeholder account, or 180 days after the runoff election, whichever occurs earlier.

2) For candidates who lose a runoff general election, the runoff campaign period ends when they pay off their remaining extant campaign debt.

(D)The campaign period for a special election, including a recall election, begins the day after the date the council calls the special election.

(1) For candidates who win a special election, the special election campaign period ends after they pay off their remaining extant campaign debt and fund their officeholder account, or 180 days after the general election, whichever occurs earlier.

(2) For candidates who lose a special election, the campaign period ends when they pay off their remaining extant campaign debt.

(E) A contribution applies to the campaign period during which it was accepted.

~~(F)~~A candidate may only raise funds for an election during an authorized campaign period.