

Measure R389

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please carefully read the following description of a ballot measure that was written by a disinterested expert. Feel free to take notes or outline passages as you read.

This should take approximately 5 minutes.

BALLOT MEASURE R389

BACKGROUND

Federal law limits the amount of money that an individual may give as a political campaign contribution to a candidate for federal elective office or to the candidate's campaign committee. California law generally does not impose any similar limits on political campaign contributions. Both federal law and the state's Political Reform Act of 1974, however, require candidates for public office to report contributions they receive and money they and their campaign committees spend. California law does not generally permit any public money to be spent for campaign activities. A few local government agencies, however, have authorized the payment of public matching funds to candidates for certain local elected offices.

PROPOSAL

In summary, this measure:

- Establishes limits on campaign contributions for all candidates for state and local elective offices;
- Prohibits the use of public funds for these campaign expenditures; and
- Prohibits state and local elected officials from spending public funds on newsletters and mass mailings.

Limits on Campaign Contributions

The measure establishes separate limits for different types of contributors.

1. **Persons.** Contributions from any person to a candidate, or to the candidate's campaign committee, are limited to \$1,000 per fiscal year. Contributions to a political committee or political party are limited to \$2,500 per fiscal year. The measure defines "person" to include an individual, business firm, association, or labor organization.

2. **Political Committees.** Contributions from any committee to a candidate or the candidate's campaign committee are limited to \$2,500 per fiscal year.

3. **Political Parties and Broad-Based Political Committees.** Contributions from any political party or broad-based political committee to a candidate or the candidate's campaign committee

are limited to \$5,000 per year. A broad-based political committee is defined as one which receives contributions from more than 100 persons and makes contributions to five or more candidates.

4. **Other Restrictions.**

- No transfers of funds are permitted between individual candidates or between their campaign committees.
- State and local elected officials are prohibited from accepting more than \$1,000 in gifts or honoraria from any one source during a calendar year.

5. **Other Provisions.**

- This measure does not affect any existing limitation on campaign contributions enacted by a local government that imposes lower contribution limits. In addition, any local government may enact its own lower limitations.
- The personal contribution limits only apply to financial or other support provided to a political committee or broad-based political committee if the support is used for making contributions directly to a candidate. The contribution limits do not apply if the contributions are used by the committee for other purposes, such as administrative costs.
- The time periods over which the contribution limits apply are modified in the case of special elections and special runoff elections.

Public Funding Prohibition

No candidate may accept any public funds for the purpose of seeking elective office.

Newsletters and Mass Mailings

Public funds cannot be used by state and local elected officials to pay for newsletters or mass mailings.

Administration and Enforcement

The State Fair Political Practices Commission has primary responsibility for administering and enforcing this measure.



STOP!

Please go to the online survey, enter the 4-character code for this ballot measure (printed at the top and bottom of this page) and answer the survey questions.