

**Walnut City Code**

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[Title 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION](#)  
[Chapter 1.24 CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION REFORM](#)

**1.24.020 Contribution limitations.**

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- A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to prevent improper influence over elected officials and to prevent the appearance of such improper influence.
- B. Contributions may not be made or received outside of an election cycle.
- C. Monetary Contributions by Persons. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no person shall make and no candidate for elective City office or campaign treasurer shall accept any monetary contribution which would cause the total amount of monetary contributions contributed by such person to that candidate for elective City office or any committees controlled by that candidate to exceed \$1,000.00.
- D. Monetary Contributions to Political Committees. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no person shall make and no political committee shall accept any monetary contribution which would cause the total amount of monetary contributions contributed by such person to that committee to exceed \$750.00.
- E. In-Kind Contributions by Persons. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no person shall make and no candidate for elective City office or campaign treasurer shall accept any in-kind goods or services (non-monetary contribution) which would cause the total amount of non-monetary contributions contributed by such person to that candidate for elective City office or any committees controlled by that candidate to exceed \$2,000.00.
- F. In-Kind Contributions to Political Committees. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no person shall make and no political committee shall accept any in-kind goods or services (non-monetary contribution) which would cause the total amount of non-monetary contributions contributed by such person to that committee to exceed \$1,500.00.
- G. Exclusions from Contribution Limitations.
1. Payments for communications to members, employees or shareholders or families of members, employees or shareholders of an organization for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure, shall not be considered contributions or independent expenditures, if the requirements of Government Code Section 85312 are satisfied.
  2. Contributions of a candidate's own personal funds to further his or her own candidacy.
  3. Initiative, referenda, or the question of whether an office-holder should be recalled, but not including the proposed election of succeeding candidates.
- H. Return of Excess Contributions. Contributions, which either in the aggregate or on their face exceed the contribution limits of this chapter, shall be deemed not to have been accepted, if returned prior to deposit or negotiations, within the earliest of the following deadlines:
1. Within 10 working days of receipt; or
  2. By the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the contribution is received; or
  3. In the case of a late contribution, within 24 hours of receipt.
- A non-monetary contribution shall be returned by returning to the contributor either the non-monetary contribution or its monetary equivalent. It is permissible to return only the monetary amount by which the value of the non-monetary contribution exceeds the contribution limits of this chapter.
- I. Return of Unrecorded Contributions. The candidate or committee shall return within 60 days any contribution (monetary or non-monetary) of \$50.00 or more for which the candidate or committee does not have on file in the records of the candidate or committee, the name, address, occupation, and employer of the contributor.
- J. Majority Membership on Certain Related Committees Prohibited. To prevent circumvention of the contribution limitations of this chapter, no primarily formed committee which supports or opposes a candidate or candidates for

elective City office shall have as a majority of its officers individuals who serve as the majority of officers on any other committee which supports or opposes the same candidate or candidates. This subsection shall not apply to treasurers of primarily formed committees if these treasurers do not participate in any way in a decision on whether the candidate or candidates supported by the primarily formed committee accepts particular contributions.

K. Other Committees. Primarily formed committees or similarly organized committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose a single candidate or a group of specific candidates for elective City office being voted upon in the same City election shall be subject to the campaign contribution limits and disclosure requirements of this chapter. Committees organized solely to support or oppose ballot measure(s) relating to City law shall be subject to the disclosure provisions of this chapter and the Political Reform Act.

L. Contributions for Legal Defense. A candidate for elective City office may receive contributions to be held in a special account for legal defense, subject to the limitations contained herein if all the requirements of Government Code Section 85304 are satisfied. (Ord. 19-08, § 1)

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