

**CITY OF FOLSOM
MEASURE D**

D Shall the measure to increase the limit on campaign contribution a person may contribute in support or opposition to a candidate for the Folsom City Council in an election, including contributions to candidate-controlled committees supporting or opposing such candidate, from the current amount of \$150 to \$500 be adopted?

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE D

Prepared by the Folsom City Attorney

The City Council of the City of Folsom has placed Measure D on the November 6, 2018 ballot to amend the amount of campaign contribution limits a person may contribute to support or oppose a candidate for the Folsom City Council in an election, including contributions made to the candidate directly, as well as to candidate-controlled committees supporting or opposing such candidate.

The current campaign contribution limit in the Folsom Municipal Code was adopted by the voters of the City through a voter initiative at the June 7, 1994 election, and as such may be amended only with the approval of a majority of the voters of the City at a regular election set by state law. The current campaign contribution limit is \$150, which includes contributions made to the candidate directly, or to all committees supporting or opposing such candidate.

There is no state law requiring cities to limit the amount of campaign contributions to candidates for a local office. State law, however, does permit cities to adopt their own campaign contribution limits in municipal elections if they choose.

Measure D, if approved by the voters, would raise the limit on the maximum amount of a campaign contribution a person may contribute in support of, or opposition to, a candidate for the Folsom City Council at an election from the current limit of \$150 to \$500. The limit would apply to contributions made to the candidate directly, and/or to candidate-controlled committees supporting or opposing a candidate for the Folsom City Council.

If passed by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the Measure, Section 2.48.030(A) of the Folsom Municipal Code would be amended to: (1) increase the campaign contribution limit from \$150 to \$500; and (2) clarify that the contribution limit would apply to candidate-controlled committees as well. The changes would be applicable to all municipal elections after November 6, 2018.

A "yes" vote is a vote in favor of raising the campaign contribution limit from the current limit of \$150 to \$500, including and covering contributions made to the candidate directly, as well as to candidate-controlled committees supporting or opposing such candidate. A "no" vote is a vote against raising the current campaign contribution limit. To pass, this Measure must obtain at least 50% plus one of those votes cast on the Measure as "yes" votes.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by a vote of the City Council.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure D. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the elections official's office at (916) 461-6035 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. The full text of Measure D can also be found on the City's website at: www.folsom.ca.us

Steven Wang, City Attorney
City of Folsom

Per Election Code 9280: "The above statement is an impartial analysis of the measure. If you desire a copy of the measure, please visit the City of Folsom webpage at www.folsom.ca.us or call the city clerk's office at 916-461-6035 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you."

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE D

A "Yes" vote on Measure D would increase the limit of an individual campaign contribution in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate for the Folsom City Council from \$150 to \$500. This increase is needed to make it financially feasible for more people to run for office which in turn will give the voters a wider choice of potential candidates to represent us on the Folsom City Council.

The current limit of \$150 a person may contribute to a candidate directly, or to a committee supporting or opposing the candidate, was established in 1994. Given that almost 25 years has passed since that limit was set, it is time to bring the contribution limits up to par to accurately reflect the true cost of running a local campaign today.

While limits on campaign contributions are essential to ensure candidates are not beholden to wealthy donors or special interests, the ability to raise sufficient amount of money to adequately finance a campaign can discourage qualified citizens from seeking and running for the City Council. Contribution limits encourage a candidate to build a broader base of contributors, however, when the contribution limit is as low as \$150, potential candidates are quickly discouraged by the sheer number of individual contributors they must reach in order to fund a viable campaign.

The amount proposed by Measure D is a reasonable increase considering the amount of time that has elapsed since the limit was last adopted. This amount is not significant enough to behold a candidate to special interests and will serve to bring our outdated campaign contribution limit in line with today's true cost of running a local campaign.

Let's make it possible for more qualified candidates to run for City Council. Vote "Yes" on Measure D!

s/Steve Miklos
Mayor

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE D WAS FILED