

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Lish Whitson/(206) 615-1674	

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### 1. BILL SUMMARY

**Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE related to elections; limiting contributions to independent expenditure committees; amending Sections 2.04.010, 2.04.270, 2.04.370, 2.04.400, and 2.04.500 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC).

**Summary and background of the Legislation:**

This bill would amend the City’s regulations regarding campaign finance limits and reporting of campaign expenditures. It addresses gaps in the City’s election regulations that can undermine the integrity of the City’s elections and increase the risk of corruption or the appearance of corruption, including quid pro quo corruption.

While the City limits the amount that a person may contribute to a political campaign, there is no cap on how much money a political committee can spend in support of or in opposition to a candidate. This has, in the past, resulted in threats to candidates. This bill would limit contributions to independent expenditure committees. It defines “independent expenditure committee” as a political committee that makes independent expenditures (uncoordinated with a candidate or ballot proposition campaign.) The legislation sets a \$5,000 cap on contributions by persons to independent expenditure committees for use in elections in the City of Seattle in any election cycle. A “limited contribution committee,” one that only accepts donations up to \$500 a person, would be able to contribute to another political committee with no cap.

### 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**      \_\_\_ Yes X No

### 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?**      \_\_\_ Yes X No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission has indicated that they would require additional staff to enforce these and existing regulations. One Strategic Advisor 1 position to enforce these and other Election regulations would cost approximately \$149,000 in 2020.

**Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

None identified

**3.a. Appropriations**

\_\_\_\_\_ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

**3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements**

\_\_\_\_\_ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

**3.c. Positions**

\_\_\_\_\_ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission would enforce the legislation.

**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No.

**c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**

No.

**d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No.

**e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No.

**f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

None identified.

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).**

Not applicable.

**List attachments/exhibits below:**

None