

AB571 Campaign Contribution Limit Discussion

To Yountville Town Council:

AB571 analysis below and City of Santa Ana Form 460/470 information on their city website is for information only. I have also reviewed Town Attorney Bell's AB571 summary letter and analysis.

I am providing this information for discussion and possible Town Council action.

"In passing [AB 571](#), the California Legislature noted that the vast majority of counties and cities in the State have not independently imposed local campaign contributions — although they maintain the local authority to do so. AB 571 is meant to reduce the frequency in which local candidates raise substantial campaign funds from a single contributor.

"AB 571 neither alters current local contribution limits, nor does it limit how a city or county sets its own contribution limits in the future by resolution, ordinance or initiative after AB 571 becomes effective."

"Cities and counties that wish to adopt local contribution limits in light of AB 571 must consider how their own agency intends to enforce such restrictions, as the new law does not provide the FPPC with authority to administer or enforce locally set contribution limits."

[AB 571 Sets Default Candidate Contribution Limits for City and County Offices - Best Best & Krieger \(bbklaw.com\)](#)

Topic Discussion

AB571 addresses individual campaign contribution limits only and does not address the issue of campaign spending or campaign spending limits. Campaign spending limits is an issue we could also discuss, but it is a separate discussion from first discussing campaign contribution limits.

I would like the Town Council to discuss whether a \$4900 campaign contribution by a single source is appropriate in a small town like Yountville. While there was no limit before January 1, 2021, if we leave the limit in place then a Yountville Mayor or Town Council candidate could receive the same amount from a single source as a Board of Supervisor, State Assemblymember or State Senate candidate.

It is my understanding we could by ordinance consider setting an individual campaign contribution limit at a lower amount like \$500. At the same time, we could also leave in place the FPPC Form 460 and Form 470 campaign contribution and spending regulations and reporting requirements. According to former Town Clerk Michelle Dahme in a conversation I had with her in 2020, the FPPC Form 470 \$2000 contribution and spending limit has been the option all Yountville candidates chose until the 2020 election. I think the Yountville Town Council should heed and address the CA legislature's concern about local candidates raising substantial campaign funds from a single source

[Fair Political Practices Commission Forms & Deadlines | The City of Santa Ana](#)

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue and I look forward to a Council discussion soon.

Respectfully,

Council member Eric Knight