

AURORA ETHICS OMNIBUS ORDINANCE

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INTEGRITY

DECEMBER 2, 2025



CHANGES SINCE LAST DISCUSSION

Contribution limit
from is not \$1500
(was \$500)

Eliminated rules
for cash
donations

Removed
regulation of City
Property & Seal

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS (SECS. 15-320 TO 15-322)



Stricter local limits on top of state law



\$1500 cap from entities doing or seeking City business and from lobbyists/clients/vendors



Treats affiliates and reimbursements as one donor



~~No cash contributions > \$150~~



No anonymous or pass-through donations



Penalties and disqualification of doing business with the city for violation

WHAT'S NEW VS. 2019

Area	2019 Approach	Proposed Update
Financial disclosures	Narrower content; older cadence	Broader content (outside employment, real estate, entity ownership, city-funded org leadership, gifts/loan forgiveness >\$150) with annual e-filing by Jan 31 + penalties and public online access
Campaign finance	Higher Flexibility	\$1500 annual cap for entities doing/seeking business; cash ≤\$150; no anonymous/pass-through donations; aggregates affiliates; 4-year "no business" ban for violations
Lobbyists	Limited specificity	Ban on direct/in-kind contributions by lobbyists/5%+ owners; violation triggers 4-year ban on City business
City property & seal	Less explicit	Clear definition of "City Property," explicit political-use restrictions, narrower expectations (incidental seal use, candidacy announcement)

WHO'S COVERED AND WHEN?

“Covered person” definition tied to state law and **when a person becomes a candidate** (circulating petitions, etc.)

Initial disclosure due within 15 days of becoming covered

WHY THE \$1500 CAP

**Fair participation,
not outsized sway—**
keeps donors engaged
but limits influence.

**Aggregates
affiliates—**business +
subsidiaries +
reimbursed employees
count as **one donor**.

Real consequences—
violations trigger **4-
year disqualification**
from City business.

REGULATION OF LOBBYISTS (SEC. 15-321)

Lobbyists and entities with ownership interests >5% prohibited from direct or in-kind contributions to City officers, candidates, or committees



Four-year ban on doing business with the City for violations

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

- Enhances transparency and accountability
- Reduces redundancy by streamlining reporting
- Provides residents with accessible online disclosure data
- Establishes enforceable, fair contribution rules

DESIRED ACTION

- **Request:** That the Rules, Administration, and Procedures Committee recommend approval of the proposed ordinance to the City Council