



CITY OF OBERLIN

• Live • Learn • Lead •

CHAPTER 112

Election Financing

112.01. Purpose.

112.02. Definitions.

112.03. Limits on noncash monetary and in-kind contributions and loans.

112.04. Limits on cash contributions.

112.05. Limits on total contributions.

112.06. Disclosure of employers of contributors.

112.07. Wednesday before election campaign finance reports.

112.99. Penalty.

112.01. PURPOSE.

In order to demonstrate and promote ethics by government within the City, to further integrity in campaigns for public office, to prevent corruption and/or the appearance of corruption, and to restore and enhance the faith of the citizenry in government, Council does hereby establish these campaign finance regulations for City Council elections.

(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.02. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

Anything of value means:

(a) Money, bank bills or notes, United States Treasury Notes, and other bills, bonds or notes issued by lawful authority and intended to pass and circulate as money.

(b) Promissory notes, bills of exchange, orders, drafts, warrants, checks or bonds given for the payment of money;

(c) Any promise of future employment;

(d) Every other thing of value.

Campaign committee means:

A candidate or a combination of two or more persons authorized by a candidate under Ohio R.C. 3517.081 to receive contributions and make expenditures.

Candidate means:

Any qualified person certified in accordance with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and the Oberlin Charter for placement on the official ballot of an election for Oberlin City Council.

Contribution means:

A loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, transfer of funds, in-kind contribution or transfer of anything of value, and payment by any person other than the person to whom the services are rendered, which contribution is made, received, or used for the purpose of influencing the results of an election.

Contribution does not include:

- (a) Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a person;
- (b) Ordinary home hospitality;
- (c) The personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that volunteer campaign worker;
- (d) The personal expenses of a candidate paid for by the candidate from the candidate's personal funds;

In-kind contribution means:

Anything of value other than money that is used to influence the results of an Oberlin City Council election.

Political action committee means:

A combination of two or more persons, the primary or incidental purpose of which is to support or oppose any candidate for Oberlin City Council.



Political party means:

Any group of voters meeting the requirements set forth in Ohio R.C. 3517.01 for the formation and existence of a political party. The definitions set forth in Ohio R.C. 3517.01 shall apply to this chapter except to the extent modified in this section.

(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.03. LIMITS ON NONCASH MONETARY AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS AND LOANS.

- A. No candidate for Council shall accept or solicit, as a noncash monetary (i.e. checks, money orders, credit cards) or in-kind campaign contribution or loan, more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) from any person, campaign committee, political party, or political action committee.
- B. No person, political action committee, political party or political campaign shall contribute funds or in-kind contributions in excess of said amount. Mailings to memberships that do not provide exclusive support for an Oberlin candidate are exempt.
- C. Contributions from the candidate and labor of volunteers are exempt from these provisions.
- D. The contributions set forth in this section shall be per election.

(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.04. LIMITS ON CASH CONTRIBUTIONS.

No candidate for Council shall accept, as a campaign contribution, more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) in cash (i.e. hard currency) from any person. No person shall contribute cash in excess of said amount.

(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.05. LIMITS ON TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS.

No candidate for Council shall accept, as a campaign contribution, more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) total as cash, noncash monetary or in-kind campaign contributions or loans from any one person, campaign committee, political party or political action committee.



(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.06. DISCLOSURE OF EMPLOYERS OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

A candidate for Council shall identify all persons who contribute twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more by primary employer.

(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.07. WEDNESDAY BEFORE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS.

- A. Each candidate for Council shall file with the Clerk of Council by noon on the Wednesday prior to an election, on a form prescribed by the Director of Law, a full, true and itemized statement, made under penalty of election falsification, setting forth in detail the contributions made to that candidate as of said Wednesday.
- B. Each statement required by subsection (a) hereof shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The candidate's full name and home address;
 - 2. The date of the election;
 - 3. A statement of contributions which shall include:
 - a. The month, day and year of contribution;
 - b. The full name and home address of each person, political party, campaign committee, entity, political action committee or political contributing entity from whom contributions are received in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);
 - c. The information required by Section 112.06;
 - d. A description of the contribution received, if other than money;
 - e. The value in dollars and cents of the contribution.

(Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)

112.99. PENALTY.

- A. In addition to any penalties applicable under state law the following penalties apply to candidates for Council and the filing requirements in this Code.
 - 1. Any candidate who fails to file a Wednesday before election campaign finance report required hereby shall be fined ten dollars (\$10.00) per day until the filing is made, to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).



2. No penalty shall be imposed upon any candidate who, after making a good faith effort to identify the information required by these regulations, is unable to provide such information, except that if this information is not on file with the Lorain County Board of Elections, the contribution shall be returned to the contributor within thirty days after the filing of the candidate's financial report.
- B. In addition to any penalties applicable under state law, the following penalties apply to contribution limits under sections of this Code:
1. For a contribution in excess of the limits set forth herein, the candidate shall pay the City General Fund three dollars (\$3.00) for every dollar accepted in excess of the limit, unless the excess is completely refunded within ten business days after notification to the recipient of the contribution that a contribution in excess of the permitted amount had been received.
 2. For intentional or persistent violations of contribution limits, a candidate shall pay the City General Fund one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or five times the amount accepted in excess of the limit, whichever is greater.
- C. No person shall knowingly fail to file the information required under Section 112.06. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- D. No person shall knowingly fail to file or file a false statement required under Section 112.07. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- E. Enforcement. Suspected violations of this chapter shall be submitted to the Clerk of Council, who shall transmit such information to the Director of Law, who shall investigate the claim and enforce the provisions of this chapter.
- (Ord. 05-81AC. Passed 12-5-05.)





Oberlin City Council Candidate's Contribution Report

Name: _____
Address: _____
Date of Election: November 1, 2023
Due: Wednesday before the Election

☐ I accepted no contributions of \$25.00 or more for my campaign. (No further reporting is necessary)

Date of Contribution	Contributor	Address	Employer	Nature of Contribution	Value of Contribution
Ex: 09/22/06	Sam Smith	2068 Vine Street Oberlin Ohio 44074	Retired	Check	\$50.00

Please see instructions on the back of this form.

Certified date/time of Receipt: _____ initials: _____

Candidate's Signature: _____

Instructions

1. All candidates must file this form.
 2. All contributions of \$25.00 but not to exceed \$100 must be reported.
 3. Nature of contributions means: Cash, Check, or in-kind. It is the candidate's responsibility to describe and to assign a value to in-kind contributions.
 4. For Oberlin residents who contribute, only a street and number are necessary.
 5. The name of an organization may be used in place of an individual.
-

Candidates Need Not Report

1. Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their time.
2. Ordinary home hospitality.
3. Personal expenses of a volunteer paid by the volunteer.
4. Personal expenses of a candidate paid for by the candidate from the candidate's personal funds.

Please submit this form to the **Clerk of Council** at Oberlin City Hall by noon on Wednesday prior to the election.

Address: Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council, 85 South Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.