



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman John Courage, District 9
COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterrek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Transparency in Municipal Campaign Finance
DATE: July 19, 2017

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Discussion of strengthening Section 2-307 of the San Antonio Municipal Campaign Finance Code (Article VII) by including additional contribution reporting requirements beyond what is defined by Title 15, Sec. 254.031 of the Texas Election Code. I propose requiring candidates to report occupation and employer of any individual that contributes \$100 or more in aggregate to a candidate for municipal office.

Brief Background

Currently, the relevant contribution information that is required for filing financial reports in San Antonio municipal elections is governed by Title 15, Sec. 254.031 of the Texas Election Code which in part states:

the amount of political contributions from each person that in the aggregate exceed \$50 and that are accepted during the reporting period by the person or committee required to file a report under this chapter, the full name and address of the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions;

Legislative and statewide executive candidates in Texas are also required to submit the contributor's principal occupation and the name of the individual's employer for any contributions in total over \$500 during the reporting period, both of which will strengthen the City of San Antonio's Municipal Campaign Finance Code as we look to provide greater transparency in our government.



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Per Title 15, Sec. 254.0612 of the Texas Election Code:

In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.061, each report by a candidate for a statewide office in the executive branch or a legislative office must include, for each individual from whom the person filing the report has accepted political contributions that in the aggregate equal or exceed \$500 and that are accepted during the reporting period:

- (1) the individual's principal occupation or job title; and
- (2) the full name of the individual's employer.

Municipal Elected Officials should be held to a higher standard given that local policy decisions often have a greater impact on the lives of residents. In an effort to promote greater accountability within our government, it's time to consider defining our municipal contribution filing requirements for Mayor and City Council to reflect that of legislative and statewide elections.

Submitted for Council consideration by: John Courage
Councilman John Courage, District 9

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

		District
1.	<u>M. Pelaez</u>	<u>8</u>
2.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>7</u>
3.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3</u>
4.	<u>Dave Brodman</u>	<u>6</u>

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