

From: [Richard Erlich](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item 44, Campaign Donation Increase
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 9:57:56 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

I respectfully but strongly petition the Board to reject the proposal in Item 44 to rescind current limits on campaign donations. If the Board is not ready to reject the proposed change, they should at least postpone the vote to a second reading, allowing time for serious debate and for public comment.

Where and when I grew up, we joked we had "The best goll-dern General Assembly money can buy." Money in politics nowadays is more subtle, but money can and does swing elections. This is why we in the United States often have and always need campaign donation limits. To rescind current limits is to undermine our County's part of the democratic process of free and fair elections — eroding a foundation of the Republic.

And then there is the matter of process.

There is at least the appearance of an attempt by two of Supervisor Long's colleagues to benefit her in a tough up-coming election, and to do so by ramming through a motion with little notice. It can sometimes be frustrating when "parliamentary procedure" slows things down, but in large part that is its purpose: to allow fair hearings, to ensure that there's majority *decision*, not a majority *rule* where small, often temporary majorities run rough-shod over the concerns of a temporary minority in the "parliamentary" body, or a more permanent minority of the community. And it's what we might call simple parliamentary decency to reject pushing through legislation before the public gets a chance to even know about it and for concerned and affected citizens to have a say. Both of the Constitutions the Board swore to uphold guarantee that, as the California version has it, "The people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common good (I.3.a). That requires figurative "Sunshine" and very literal sufficient notice.

Reject item 44 and its step backward to the bad old days when special interests — and the individually rich or corporately powerful — could buy elections and, if less directly today, buy elected officials.

Sincerely,
Richard D. ERlich

Richard D. Erlich
711 Island View Circle
Port Hueneme, CA 93041-3447
ErlichRD@gmail.com