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March 27, 2023

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Agenda Item 50 - Second Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of an Ordinance
Amendment for Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance

We the undersigned, representing 16 organizations serving Ventura County, object to the repeal of Ventura County's Campaign Finance Ordinance, Agenda Item 50.

Ventura County is experiencing an alarming increase in the amount of special interest money in local elections. In last November's election, more money was spent on the Supervisors race by Independent Expenditure Committees than by candidates. The stated fix by Supervisors Gorell, Parvin, and Long is to "even the playing field" by increasing the amount candidates can raise and spend. This is cynical at best.

By repealing Ventura County's campaign finance ordinance there is only one predictable

outcome: more money will be spent and more influence will be gained by special interests. The repeal will also disband the County's Ethics Commission and remove restrictions on when Supervisors can take money. **It is a step backward for clean money, transparency, and democracy.**

We know controversial decisions by the Board of Supervisors often pit the few who stand to gain financially against the many who support the environment, clean water, clean air, public health, and social justice. We also know money talks. The campaign finance ordinance was necessary because developers were contributing tens of thousands of dollars to candidates for Supervisor. That is why the Board of Supervisors reined in big money in candidate campaigns.

This repeal is being proposed without any analysis from County staff or Commission on the impact of removing the individual contribution cap and the removal of expenditure limits and time frames for collecting contributions. This brash recommendation is not informed by sound analysis and fails to address economic, social, and decision-making process impacts.

We urge you to uphold the public's trust and side with the vast majority of Americans who want less, not more money in political campaigns.

With urgency,

Haley Ehlers
Director
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas
(CFROG)

Linda Parks
Executive Director
Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources
(SOAR)

Carla Mena
Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs
Los Padres ForestWatch

Lucas Zucker
Co-Executive Director
Central Coast Alliance United for a
Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)

Tomás Morales Rebecchi
Organizing Manager
Food & Water Watch

Michael Chiacos
Director of Climate Policy
Community Environmental Council

Kathleen Wheeler
Co-Founder
Ventura Climate Coalition

Jan Dietrick
Policy Team Leader, 350 Ventura County
Climate Hub
Executive Director, Dietrick Institute for
Applied Insect Ecology

Faith Grant
Co-Founder
Conejo Climate Coalition

Judy Fisk Lucas
President
Friends of Fieldworkers, Inc

Alasdair Coyne
Conservation Director
Keep Sespe Wild

Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino
Network Manager
Central Coast Climate Justice Network

Abigail Thomas
Environmental Employee Engagement
Patagonia

Director
Indivisible Ventura

Kathy Morgan
President
League of Women Voters of Ventura County

Sent via email

clerkoftheboard@ventura.org

CC: Supervisor Matt LaVere
Supervisor Jeff Gorell
Supervisor Kelly Long
Supervisor Janice S. Parvin
Supervisor Vianey Lopez
Matt Carroll
Maruja Clensay
Mark Perryman
Brian Miller
Bruce Rokos
Robert O'Riley
Angel Garcia

From: [Alana Sheeren](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [Lopez, Vianey](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:28:25 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.

Clerk of the Board, Agenda Item 50

It is no secret that money can swing elections. It is interesting to me that three of our current Ventura County supervisors are attempting to get rid of Ventura County's Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance whose stated purpose is to *"Promote public trust in Government institutions and the election process, (and) reduce the appearance of corruption and prevent individuals and organizations from using their financial strength to corrupt Ventura County government...."* This ordinance certainly seems like a good and important addition to our local elections.

Supervisor Long has made some unfortunate decisions that mean she is facing a tough battle in her district. Voting to allow drilling adjacent to Lemonwood was an unpopular choice in Oxnard, except for those who work in the oil industry. Is it a coincidence that Supervisors Long, Gorell and Parvin now wish to take away one of our safeguards to free and fair elections during a time when many conservative politicians are realizing how unpopular their platforms and voting decisions are with the public? I wonder.

Even if it is a coincidence, I have yet to see a coherent explanation as to why this decision is being made, and how it benefits anyone other than their own campaign pocketbooks.

I ask that the supervisors continue to support fair and balanced elections where special interest money is not allowed to buy the outcome. Please do what is right and reject this anti-democratic proposal by Supervisor Gorell and Supervisor Parvin.

Sincerely,
Alana Sheeren

From: [Alyson Warner](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: VOTE NO // Repealing the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:00:06 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.

Please add my voice to the MANY constituents in opposition to reforming the existing campaign finance ordinance.

Community networks are still strong in this county and a vote to try to dismantle our power as a community will be noticed. Votes like this are how you earn, not buy, your place on VC-BOS. I hope that you take this vote as an opportunity to show the county that you represent the people of Ventura over outside interests.

Respectfully,

Alyson Warner
Ventura, CA

To the Clerk of the Board

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

RE: Second Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of an Ordinance of the County of Ventura Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance

Sent via Email to: clerkofthebosrd@ventura.org

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On March 14th I asked you to keep Ordinance 4510 in place and reject the proposal to repeal it in its entirety,

I asked you to not insult the voters' intelligence with your highly speculative, implausible and laughable arguments initially offered by Supervisor Gorell and Parvin. On March 14th, you did much worse.

Supervisor Gorell, you said that you and Supervisor Parvin began your conversation to explore how to change the current ordinance, but you quickly pivoted to specious reasons why you and she favor repealing the ordinance in its entirety. You offered no information, if any is to be had, of what amendments you and she considered bringing forward.

You and Parvin say that "we've been lazy as a county" in monitoring and adjusting the contribution limit for the impacts of inflation and the cost of living and that "we don't have the ability at the county level" to do that. Well, since 2001 the County took on this obligation and responsibility when it adopted its Living Wage Ordinance.

You and Parvin complain that people must track campaign donations for different offices on different website and that "people don't understand there's a difference". I find this statement most insulting to us voters!

AB 571 provides for local control, something I've heard each of you argue for in other circumstances. We hear what you say but we see what you do. You have heard overwhelmingly from your local constituents that we favor local control in this matter and support for our current ordinance.

Ventura County is special for many reasons, one of which is that we value the efficacy and integrity and fairness of our local electoral process. Help

keep our elections open, transparent and fair. Reject the proposal to repeal Ordinance 4510 in its entirety.

From: [Brad Wieners](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [ALASDAIR COYNE](#)
Subject: Keep the cap on contributions
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:28:09 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.

To the Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

Re Agenda Item 50.

As a Ventura resident, I urge you to keep the cap of \$750 on campaign contributions to Supervisor candidates in place and to NOT to raise it to \$5,500.

Let's not kid ourselves that 5x as much of a contribution doesn't gain the contributor the attention – and influence – they seek in doing so.

An increase in the cap will serve those with more wealth – and industry, in particular— and not the common good. If you're honest with yourself, you know this to be true.

Brad Wieners
(845) 367-1618

From: [Candice Meneghin](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [LaVere, Matt](#); [Supervisor Gorell](#); [Lopez, Vianey](#); [Long, Kelly](#); [Supervisor Parvin](#)
Subject: Item 50 Campaign Donations (and Big Money Politics)
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:20:43 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.

Attention Chair LaVere and Supervisors:

I request that campaign finance contribution remain capped at \$750/individual, and not be raised to \$5,500. Further, a thorough staff analysis should be finalized to inform the decision and to ensure safeguards remain to limit the improper influence on candidates and elected officials. The ordinance should be amended to bolster strong disclosure and enforcement regulations, which are critical.

It has been especially disconcerting to see special interests and political donors in support of the oil and gas industry dominating financing in recent Supervisor races. Even more so, watching supervisors vote according to special interest priorities. It appears improper influence is afoot, and the interests of Ventura County residents as a whole are playing second fiddle to Oil and Gas profits.

The Brennan Center for Justice's analysis and reporting has proven that dark and gray money has surged in state and local elections. Decreasing from 76% transparent funding in 2006 to only 29% in 2014, since the *Citizens United* decision. "Donations from dark groups to super PACs increased 49 times in these states (including California) between 2006 and 2014, from less than \$190,000 to over \$9.2 million." Gray money via non-profits has ballooned to nearly 60% of all outside spending in 2014. Notably, *"dark money in state and local levels frequently flows from special interests with a direct and immediate economic stake in the outcome of the contest in which they are spending, in contrast to what is often portrayed as the more broadly ideological outside spending at the federal level."*

Lower costs make it easy for special interests to dominate state and local elections. Dark money even outspent candidates themselves, with amounts as low as \$100,000 or \$10,000 which is modest for corporations versus the major hurdle it is for many candidate and community groups.

As an environmentalist and mother of young children growing up in Ventura County, we must support a just transition away from fossil fuels to sustain a livable planet and prioritizes the health and safety of our citizens, and protect our local water supply which is mainstreamed in every sector of our economy.

The vast majority of wells in Ventura County are idle, orphaned, or not operational. To cap and transition away from oil and gas to renewable and clean energy would actually create more jobs locally. These special interests are buying votes to not fulfill their legal obligations and are leaving taxpayers in the county and statewide with the check for their improper closure. The oil and gas industry opposes any and all regulations that hold them accountable for their impacts on the environment. It's unconscionable and immoral. Remediation, mitigation, and regulations are a cost

of business, for a thriving County. These special interests seek only to benefit, and not address the harm they create while doing so. Regulatory power at the Board of Supervisors is concentrated and directly impacts Oil and Gas's bottom line, which is why they are targeting local elections.

Big money should have no place in our local politics. By increasing the cap on campaign finance, we will remove the guardrails that protect our democratic system and environment, unless Supervisors refuse to take special interest funding. By increasing the cap, you will only enable a stronger foothold for these special interests.

Please oppose this increase, undergo a more thorough review of the implications; as only a few are highlighted here, and bolster the current disclosure language to deter black and gray funds from entering our local politics any further.

Thank you for your consideration,

Candice Meneghin

From: [Carol and Armando](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Up coming vote on repeal of campaign finance ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:45:34 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.

As a voter in Ventura County, both of us urge your NO vote on repeal of the campaign finance ordinance.

Carol J. Adams-Ramos

224 Calle Fronte, Camarillo, CA 93012

and

Armando Ramos

224 Calle Fronte, Camarillo, CA 93012.

Thank you.

From: [Claire McAndrews](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item No. 50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 4:27:36 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.

Hello,

As a concerned Ventura County resident, I am urging the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to object to the repeal of Ventura County's Campaign Finance Ordinance. For two decades, Ventura County has had one of the most effective campaign finance rules — prioritizing accountability and transparency and allowing grassroots funded candidates to compete. If the Ventura County Board of Supervisors repeals Ventura County's campaign finance ordinance this will dilute the power of local, grassroots activists and give more opportunities for special interests — like oil and developers — to buy influence in our local policy. This is a huge step backward from moving towards a healthy democracy rooted in transparency and accountability. I urge you to reject this repeal and listen to the vast majority of Americans who want less money in political campaigns.

Warmly,

Claire McAndrews

From: [Dana Cordes](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#); [Supervisor Gorell](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Adoption of an Ordinance of the County of Ventura Repealing the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:48:49 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 am writing this email in strong objection to the proposal from Supervisor Jeff Gorell to remove the county cap for campaign donations. Small money is good money. Big money decreases the representation of citizens and increases the representation of the wealthy. In a world where money is being used to abuse power on a daily basis, I want to see the influence lessened in our county. Those wishing to increase donations must feel that they can buy they offices in the future through larger donations from corporate and wealthy entities.

Again, please DO NOT pass this resolution and leave our donation cap at \$750/person, where it belongs.

--

Dana Cordes
Resident of Thousand Oaks

From: [Diana Velzy](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Fwd: Item 50 10:30 am: Against the Repeal of 2003 Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 10:45:17 AM

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.

Amended

Diana Velzy
Constituent County District 3

-----Original Message-----

From: Diana Velzy <dvelzy@aol.com>
To: clerkoftheboard@ventura.org <clerkoftheboard@ventura.org>
Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 10:42 am
Subject: Item 50 10:30 am: Against the Repeal of 2003 Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance

Board of Supervisors 03/28/2023 Meeting:

I am a constituent in County District 3 I am disheartened by your decision to move forward to Repeal the 2003 Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance.

There is absolutely no reason why any of you should require the kind of money you are attempting to claim for yourselves. Especially in such low level forms of local government. You didn't seem to have any issues using the same regulations getting your current seats. Why are you trying to take away the voice of many? This is unbelievable to me.

Please know that if this is done, I will do everything in my power to have you replaced with people who are not afraid of the voice of many. As you are aware most of your constituents are unable to afford the kind of donations you are attempting to gain by this appeal... Keep the almighty dollar out of our politics. It should be the voice of the people not that of big business.

Please reconsider your position on this matter

Diana Vely
Constituent County District 3

From: freestuff19@hotmail.com
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:14:16 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.

As a constituent, I strongly urge the VC Board of Supervisors to vote NO on the repeal of the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance. We must continue to regulate political campaign contributions and spending limits in order to avoid individuals and organizations from unduly influencing elected officials.

Sincerely,

Gayle Weyman
9769 Halifax Street
Ventura, CA 93004

From: geneoneal@aol.com
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: AGENDA ITEM #50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:04:09 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 very strongly disagree repealing Ventura County's Campaign Finance Ordinance. Please vote NO.

We need less, not more money spent on elections.

Thank You
Gene O'Neal
5991 Heritage Place
Camarillo, Ca 93012

From: [Jadzia C Winter](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 50 - DO NOT SUPPORT
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:29:14 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.

Dear Board Members,

I DO NOT SUPPORT the repeal of the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance.

I support grassroots funded candidates and not corporate donors.

Please keep the elections fair with common sense public safety policies.

Thank you,
-Jadzia Winter

From: [Janet Egiziano](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:04:35 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.

Dear Clerk of the Board and Board of Supervisors,

As a concerned citizen of Ventura County, I am writing to express my strongest opposition to the proposed resolution under agenda item 50, which seeks to repeal the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance and increase the funding limit by a whopping 633%.

This ordinance has successfully prevented special interests and money from swaying our local elections since 2003, and it incentivizes candidates to prioritize the public's interests and concerns. In other words, it forces candidates to fairly and honestly work for our votes, which, in a democracy, is as it should be.

Repeal will allow wealthy influencers to bring in a handful of family and friends to help support their candidates, allowing a single special interest to donate tens of thousands of dollars directly to a candidate. Candidates backed by large sums of money from a few special interest donors can

overwhelm the airwaves and sends tons of partisan mailers to unfairly win elections.

It is clear that the proposal to repeal of our campaign finance ordinance is a self-serving act proposed by two Supervisors for the purpose of benefiting their sole ally on the Board as well as their partisan aligned special interests.

I urge the Board in the strongest possible terms to keep our current Campaign Finance Ordinance in place.

Regards,
Dr. Janet Egiziano

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [John Azevedo](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: agenda item 50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:20:45 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.

Please keep the campaign contribution limit at \$750 and have a staff report on any proposals to \$5500.

It could be argued that corruption of the political system is destroying the country so it would be heroic for you folks to reign in that dynamic.

Thank you so much!
John Azevedo

From: [Judy Alexandre](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: item 50 campaign finance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:48:22 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.

To Mayor LaVere and supervisors;

I am a long time resident of the city of Ventura.

I strongly oppose the increase in allowable election donations. This will bias the electorate as those with greater financial resources can "buy" an election. Smaller donations require greater electorate participation.

There is no need to alter the existing guidelines. This action would be a blight on our county.

Please reconsider your yes vote and VOTE No on the donation for election increase.

Thank you.

Judy Alexandre

914 Utica Ave

Ventura, Ca 93004



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From: Judydoconnor@gmail.com
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item44: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 4:09:01 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 am writing to express my concern over the possible repeal of the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance, If this ordinance is repealed, it will open the door for special interests to dominate our elections with the richest able to control the outcome of elections, drowning out the voices of ordinary citizens.

I strongly urge you to stand with the people of Ventura County and protect the integrity of our elections. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy D. O'Connor
Concerned Citizen
Ventura County resident
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Lanny Kaufer](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item 50 re campaign financing
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 10:27:22 AM

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.

Dear Board,

I am shocked and disappointed that in this era of government transparency that the VC board of Supervisors would pull back limits on campaign financing. Your constituents want to know that you are basing your decisions on facts and your commitment to the welfare of county residents, not for political gain.

I am opposed to allowing larger campaign donations.

Lanny Kaufer
304 N. Encinal Ave.
Ojai Ca 93023

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laura Hernandez](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [District1](#); [Long, Kelly](#); [Supervisor Gorell](#); [Supervisor Parvin](#); [District5](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 50: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 4:15:28 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.

To the Clerk of the Board and Board of Supervisors,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution under item 50, which seeks to repeal the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance. This ordinance has been a cornerstone of fair and transparent local elections in our county since its inception in 2003. By ensuring that candidates prioritize grassroots campaigns that prioritize the public's interests over the influence of money and special interests, the ordinance has fostered a culture of transparency and fairness in our local elections. However, if this ordinance is repealed, it will create a scenario where wealthy donors and corporate interests can sway the outcomes of our elections, undermining the very foundation of our democracy. Therefore, I urge you to keep the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance in place to ensure that our local elections remain free from undue influence and are fair and transparent.

Thank you for your attention and for protecting fair elections and reporting.

Sincerely,

Laura Hernandez

Port Hueneme

From: [Lin Rolens](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Campaign Finance Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 1:03:50 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.

Do not repeal this: the people and not big money should be the deciding force in this county. You dishonor the people by repealing this, and that is simply not forgivable: we will not forget.

**Thank you,
Lin Rolens**

From: [Linda and Frank Granat](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda item 50 at 3/28 board meeting
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:39:04 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.

Please leave the \$750 campaign donations cap in place;
too much money ruins politics for the people.
I'm a 30-year County resident.
Linda Granat

From: [Margaret Knight](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Fwd: Agenda Item 50: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 8:12:32 AM

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.

Item 50 should not be passed! The passage of this item restrict the value of democracy!

Margaret Knight

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sherrill Strothman** <sherrillstrothman@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 26, 2023, 4:00 PM
Subject: Re: Agenda Item 50: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
To: Margaret Knight <margnight3502@gmail.com>

You should clean up (my address) and FORWARD the same. Do not forget to bcc this: District5@ventura.org

On Sun, Mar 26, 2023 at 3:56 PM Margaret Knight <margnight3502@gmail.com> wrote:
Good for you!

On Sun, Mar 26, 2023, 3:11 PM Sherrill Strothman <sherrillstrothman@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

As a voter in Ventura County, I am deeply concerned about the possibility of repealing the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance. This ordinance is critical to preventing corruption in our elections and ensuring that wealthy special interests do not compromise our democracy.

Please do not repeal this important ordinance and continue to protect the integrity of our elections in Ventura County.

Sincerely,

Sherrill Strothman

From: [Maria Burnside](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 50: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:17:43 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.

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to please stand up for our democracy by not repealing the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance. This ordinance ensures that all our voices are heard and our elections continue to be fair and transparent.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Maria Burnside
Steven Burnside

From: [maria](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Public comment of Item #50 of Board of Supervisors Meeting 3/28/23
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 8:51:57 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.

Dear VC Board of Supervisors,

I strongly urge you to honor and leave our county's current campaign spending ordinance intact!!

Participatory Democracy!

That's what the limit donations up to \$750 per person for County elections, including Supervisor, means. Working people raising their families already have to overreach into their pockets to donate up to the current limit.

Please don't repeal the present ordinance! Ordinary people must be able to afford to participate in their own local governance, and their vote would be worthless if they can't afford donate up to the state limit of \$5,500.

Thank you very much,
Maria Ornelas

From: [Melanie Masters](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Repeal
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:03:33 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.

Please indicate that I am opposed to repealing campaign limits
Melanie Masters
Thousand Oaks

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michaela Perez](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance - Agenda Item 50: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:04:21 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.

Dear Clerk of the Board and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution under item 50, which seeks to repeal the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance.

This ordinance has been a cornerstone of fair and transparent local elections in our county since its inception in 2003. By ensuring that candidates prioritize grassroots campaigns that prioritize the public's interests over the influence of money and special interests, the ordinance has fostered a culture of transparency and fairness in our local elections. However, if this ordinance is repealed, it will create a scenario where wealthy donors and corporate interests can sway the outcomes of our elections, undermining the very foundation of our democracy.

Therefore, I urge you to keep the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance in place to ensure that our local elections remain free from undue influence and are fair and transparent.

Thank you for your attention and for protecting fair elections and reporting.

Sincerely,

Michaela Perez

From: [Nancy Klein](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Repeal
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 8:17:42 AM

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 am opposed to repealing the financial limit on campaign contributions. Concur with the League of Women's voters.

From: [Neirin Winter](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 50: DO NOT SUPPORT
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:16:04 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.

Dear Board Members,

I DO NOT SUPPORT the repeal of the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance.

We need to keep the elections fair and affordable for all candidates.

Regards,

Neirin Winter

From: [Patricia Butler](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: March 28th Meeting, Item 50
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:19:20 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.

The March 28th board of supervisors meeting was very disheartening. Good governance was abandoned.

The BoS ignored the wisdom of their predecessors (Moorehouse, Long, Bennett, and others), ignored the input from the citizens (approximately 75% present and on Zoom were against overturning the ordinance), and ignored the fact-based information provided to them. In addition, they ignored the findings of politically active and attentive groups like, CFROG, Indivisible, League of Women Voters, Democratic Party, and many more.

Instead, Mr. Gorell made fallacious arguments and presented false equivalences. Of the 32 or 33 counties reliant on the state to monitor campaign contributions, 23 have less than 100,000 citizens. Of course they don't have funds to oversee election contributions. And if these counties decided to stop providing education or police services, or hospital services; should we follow in their footsteps? Or should we evaluate the needs in our own county?

In addition, Mr. Gorell made an excellent argument for doing away with ALL county ordinances, i.e., it's cheaper for the state to do it. In fact, why stop there, just let the federal government manage everything. That should save the county and the state a bundle!

And as far as higher campaign contribution limits reducing the number I.E.s, while there may be a correlation, that DOES NOT establish cause and effect.

Patricia Butler
8266 Solano Street
Ventura, CA 93004
(714) 318-0111

From: [Patty Turnage](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Campaign Finance Reform
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 7:53:30 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.

Please consider this email my strong opposition to the proposed change in campaign finance limits from \$750 to \$5,500. I have been a Ventura County resident for 42 years and appreciate the grassroots nature of our community. What a shame if "big money" is able to come in and influence what should be local decisions.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Wells-Turnage
414 Fairview Dr.
Ventura CA 93001

From: [Paula Chung](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Subject: Agenda Item 50: Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:28:39 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.

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to stand up for democracy by not repealing the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance. This ordinance ensures that all voices are heard and our elections are fair and transparent.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

paula chung

From: [RALPH SCAFFIDI](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: RE-REGISTERING OPPOSITION TO PENDING 28 MARCH PROPOSED ACTION BY THE VC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:13:26 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.

To THE CLERK OF THE BOARD:

I am sending this to **RE-REGISTER MY STRONGEST OPPOSITION** to actions planned to be taken tomorrow **-TUESDAY, MARCH 28th 2023-** subsequent to similar actions taken on March 14th, by members of the VC Board of Supervisors. **Specifically**, I am in **opposition to the pending proposed action by Supervisor Gorell and Supervisor Parvin, to eliminate the County's campaign finance ordinance and all of its protections, allowing contribution limits to rise from the \$750 local limit to the \$5,500 statewide limit.**

As I understand the situation, Supervisors Gorell and Parvin have stated the rationale for repeal is that the local ordinance is no longer needed, since the State limits now apply to local Ventura County election candidates. As I stated last week and again state now for the record, I disagree with this perspective for the following concerns and reasons:

- Allowing the limits for donations to grow from \$750 to \$5,500 per donor for County Supervisor election campaigns could be a serious threat to good government for Ventura County. A well-to-do couple would be able to donate \$11,000...significantly well above the \$1,500 local limit currently in effect.

- Such a rise in the donation limit amount could work against the average citizen's voice, since for them making comparable donations at the higher levels would most likely be much more difficult, thus threatening to reduce fair and equal campaign voicing by the broadest possible percent of Ventura County residents.

- Such a situation could grant an unfair advantage to larger privileged donors, putting grassroots supporters at an unreasonable and unfair disadvantage.

As a 37 year Ventura County resident who made my career here, this clearly does not align with the Ventura-way of doing business. The concerns of the local working- and middle-class residents need to have an equally effective voice with those of larger and more wealthy residents and business interests. **Any such action of this nature should be placed on the ballot for a vote by the citizens of Ventura County.**

Again, I am **RE-VOICING and RE-REGISTERING MY STRONGEST OPPOSITION TO THIS PROPOSED ACTION.**

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

RALPH P. SCAFFIDI

Newbury Park, California

From: [Sabrina Kimball](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item No. 50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:42:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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.

Hello,

As a concerned Ventura County resident, I am urging the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to object to the repeal of Ventura County's Campaign Finance Ordinance.

For two decades, Ventura County has had one of the most effective campaign finance rules — prioritizing accountability and transparency and allowing grassroots funded candidates to compete. If the Ventura County Board of Supervisors repeals Ventura County's campaign finance ordinance this will dilute the power of local, grassroots activists and give more opportunities for special interests — like oil and developers — to buy influence in our local policy.

This is a huge step backward from moving towards a healthy democracy rooted in transparency and accountability. I urge you to reject this repeal and listen to the vast majority of Americans who want less money in political campaigns.

Thank you for taking the time to gather the feedback of our community.

Best,
Sabrina



Sabrina Kimball | Wholesale Merchant

Patagonia Inc. 259 West Santa Clara St. Ventura, CA 93001

Email: Sabrina.Kimball@patagonia.com

Patagonia pledges 1% of its sales to environmental protection and is a proud member of 1% For the Planet



From: [Sarah Walker](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: AGENDA 50!
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 5:04:25 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.

Dear Clerk of the Board and Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

I am dismayed to hear that there is a proposal to change the current \$750.00 CAP on campaign contributions to Supervisor candidates to \$5,500.00 by repealing the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform ordinance That was adopted in 2003. The \$750.00 CAP and the ordinance that is in place has served Ventura County well and as intended.

If Supervisor's Parvin and Gorell believe the Cap on campaign contributions should be raised then they should propose an appropriate increase and the Ordinance can be amended.

Also, there is no guarantee that it will improve anything by outsourcing the oversight and enforcement activities to The State government, rather than keeping it local; So, it not risk worth taking.

I oppose the proposal to repeal the Ventura County Campaign Finance Reform ordinance.

Sincerely,

Sarah Walker
3333 Goodenough Rd.
Fillmore CA, 93015

From: [Seren Winter](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 50: DO NOT SUPPORT
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:24:10 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.

Dear Board Members,

I DO NOT SUPPORT the repeal of the Ventura County Campaign Finance Ordinance.

This ordinance keeps elections fair and limits undue corporate influence in our elections.

Please keep the elections fair with common sense public safety policies.

Regards,

Seren Winter

Comment on Ventura County BOS Agenda Item #50, March 28,2023
Steven Colome, Sc.D.

The Board of Supervisors should not repeal the VC Finance Reform ordinance. I have reviewed the record from the meeting of March 14, 2023, and did not find the rationale for the proposed repeal compelling.

In order to avoid the fact or perception of elections being “bought” or allowing the overweighting of influence by organizations with financial self-interest at play as the basis for candidate support, the repeal should be rejected or substantially modified. As proposed, the revision is definitely not designed for the public benefit or welfare.

As proposed, the repeal will only serve to discredit decisions by the board and individual supervisors.

Repeal is not in the interests of an open and honest small-d democracy and should be rejected.

From: [Thomas White](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Repeal of \$750 contribution limit
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 11:26:26 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.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am opposed to the proposed repeal.

I believe the \$750.00 donation limit allows for a better, more democratic representation of the citizens of the County, not just those who may have more money to spend on political campaigns.

Thank you

Thomas White
Thousand Oaks

From: [Whitney Clapper](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Addressing concerns for Ventura County Board of Supervisors meeting - Agenda Item #. 50
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:23:27 PM
Attachments: [image001\[7\].png](#)

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.

Hello Ventura County Board of Supervisors -

As a concerned Ventura County resident, I am urging the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to object to the repeal of Ventura County's Campaign Finance Ordinance. For two decades, Ventura County has had one of the most effective campaign finance rules—prioritizing accountability and transparency and allowing grassroots funded candidates to compete. If the Ventura County Board of Supervisors repeals Ventura County's campaign finance ordinance this will dilute the power of local, grassroots activists and give more opportunities for special interests—like oil and developers—to buy influence in our local policy. This is a huge step backward from moving towards a healthy democracy rooted in transparency and accountability. I urge you to reject this repeal and listen to the vast majority of Americans who want less money in political campaigns.

Thank you and take good care,
Whitney



PATAGONIA :: COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS + IMPACT
(she/her/hers)

259 W Santa Clara St. Ventura, CA 93001

T: @whitneyclapper | M: 805.217.1817 | E: whitney.clapper@patagonia.com

Patagonia takes this opportunity to recognize that we live, work, and learn on the unceded homelands of the Chumash people. I seek peace and clarity from these lands and waters and pay my respect to the elders both past and present. For more information, please go to www.csusm.edu/cicsc

I believe in the power of the collective. – Dallas Goldtooth