Atascadero City Council  
Staff Report – City Attorney’s Office  

Campaign Ordinance  

(Continued from 10/14/08 Council Meeting)  

ACTION:  

If Council desires to adopt this campaign ordinance:  

Council introduce for first reading by title only the Draft Ordinance amending the Atascadero Municipal Code by adding Chapter 19 to Title 2, adopting an ordinance to be known as “Atascadero Campaign Ordinance.”  

DISCUSSION:  

At the August 12, 2008 meeting of the City Council, the Council directed the City Attorney to prepare a draft a campaign ordinance to include a voluntary expenditure limit and a reduction in the contribution amount which triggers late contribution reports.  

At the September 23, 2008 meeting of the City Council, a draft Campaign Ordinance was presented to the City Council along with a staff report by the City Attorney.  

At the City Council meeting on September 23, 2008, following the staff report, there were questions from the Council, comments from the public and then discussion by the Council regarding the draft Campaign Ordinance. Following the discussion by the City Council, the Council directed the City Attorney to prepare a Campaign Ordinance to include a $12,000 voluntary expenditure limit for City Council candidates and a reduction in the late contribution reporting requirement from the current amount of $1000 down to the amount of $250. The City Attorney has prepared the Campaign Ordinance as directed by the City Council and the ordinance is attached to this report.  

Also at the meeting of September 23, 2008, the City Council approved a motion directing that all FPPC Form 460s be posted on the City’s website.
FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of the adoption of this Ordinance will be the staff time involved in the implementation of the Ordinance and the Candidate Statement fees the City will have to cover. The staff time will include: processing of Declaration of Candidacy Statements, calculation of expenditure limit each election season, public noticing requirements, press releases, postings on the website and processing of additional Late Contribution Reports. The Candidate Statement fees will be approximately $250.00 per candidate.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council may not adopt a campaign ordinance.
2. The City Council may adopt a campaign ordinance which has different provisions from those included in the ordinance attached to this staff report.

ATTACHMENT:

Draft Campaign Ordinance