

Las Cruces Municipal Campaign Finance Reform Study

Recommendation for Naming of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Study of Municipal Campaign Finance Reform

Submitted for Discussion at the Las Cruces Council Work Session on March 12, 2012, by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces and the Southern New Mexico Chapter of Common Cause

Objective:

To develop a set of recommendations for [guidelines](#) leading to transparent municipal campaign financing procedures.

Proposed Approach:

1. Working closely with the office of the City Manager, review current city campaign finance guidelines.
2. Research guidelines used by other municipalities in New Mexico and in a sample of other states identified by committee members.
3. Research best practices for:
 - a. Announcing candidacy and appropriate practices after announcement,
 - b. Ensuring adequate and timely financial reporting,
 - c. Enforcement of adopted guidelines,
 - d. Accountability of individuals seeking elected office.
4. Identify any related issues that should be considered in order to establish clear guidelines for transparent city campaign finance procedures.
5. Develop a set of proposed guidelines for transparent campaign finance procedures.

A final report of the review results and recommendations will be presented to the Mayor, City Council members, and City Manager. It is recommended that this report be delivered no later than December 31, 2012.

It is suggested that the composition of the proposed committee be seven members:

- Erika Graf-Webster, League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, who has agreed to serve.
- Alex Burr, Common Cause, Las Cruces, who has agreed to serve.
- Daniel Scheller, Ph.D., Department of Government, New Mexico State University, who has agreed to serve.
- William Mattiace, Former Mayor
- Mary Tucker, former elected member of the NM House of Representatives and Las Cruces Public School Board of Education
- Two representatives of the local media

Because of the nature of the work to be undertaken, members of the committee would appreciate the assistance of the City Clerk, Esther Martinez, and City Attorney, Harry "Pete" Connelly, and clerical assistance, if required.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Graf-Webster (League of Women Voters) and Alex Burr (Common Cause)