



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 9, 2013

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: City Clerk's Office, Administrative Services Department

SUBJECT: Introduction Of Ordinance Amending The Electronic Campaign Disclosure Filing Requirement

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council introduce and subsequently adopt, by reading of title only, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Section 2.03.110 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Regarding the Mandatory Electronic Campaign Disclosure Filing Requirement.

DISCUSSION:

On July 17, 2007, the City Council approved an ordinance allowing for online electronic disclosure of campaign statements and late contributions and expenditures; and in May, 2008, the City Council approved contracting with Westcoast Online Information Systems, Inc., doing business as NetFile, to provide electronic filing software for campaign disclosure forms. The City has been receiving electronic campaign filings since July 2008 and it has proven to be efficient for staff to maintain. It is also easily accessible for those who file and for members of the public who wish to review statements filed by candidates and committees.

The only drawback to the system has been that following the electronic filing, filers must also print out two copies of the form, sign and date them and submit them to the City Clerk's Office prior to the filing deadline. The City has had no way of allowing filers to exclusively file electronically due to State law until the passage of AB 2452, which amended the Political Reform Act of 1974 to authorize local government agencies to require elected officers, candidates and committees to file their campaign statements online or electronically with the local filing officer. The State requires that the City Council adopts an ordinance which delineates the threshold for those who are required to file electronically, and our current ordinance already contains that language. The proposed revision to Section 2.03 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code deletes the requirement for filers to continue to file a paper copy of each campaign statement with the City Clerk's Office. If members of the public request a copy of a campaign statement, it can be easily retrieved and printed from the NetFile system.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The campaign statements will be stored electronically in the NetFile system, thereby reducing the amount of paper that is both printed and stored in file cabinets. Since the implementation of the electronic campaign filing program, the number of requests for photocopies from the public has decreased significantly.

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SUBMITTED BY: Marcelo A. López, Assistant City Administrator

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office