

Rancho Santiago Community College District
BOARD POLICY
Chapter 2
Board of Trustees

BP 2760 Campaign Limitations

Reference(s):

California Assembly Bill 571
California Education Code 72029

The Board of Trustees desire to promote fair elections, broader participation in its own election process, and to encourage a diverse and expanded community representation of candidates for future office.

The Board of Trustees recognize the community's interest to prevent corruption and avoid the appearance or perception of corruption with regard to large contributions from a small number of supporters for a candidate running to be elected to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees further recognize that greater participation in the electoral process begins with a candidate's ability to fundraise from a larger group of individuals. To better promote the objective of fair elections, broader participation, and avoidance of corruption or the appearance of corruption, the Board of Trustees also recognizes and makes reference to election procedures as codified in California Assembly Bill (AB 571) and California Education Code 72029 (Ed. Code 72029) to institute a District policy that imposes limitations on contributions to campaigns for elected district office.

Pursuant to Ed. Code 72029, the Board of Trustees has the authority to and hereby adopts its own campaign contribution limitations to mirror the State limits and adjustments as reflected in Assembly Bill 571. This will include the current State limitation of \$4,900 per election and subsequent adjustment for inflation every odd-numbered year, based on the Consumer Price Index.

Therefore, no person, including individuals, corporations, other business entities, or political committees, shall contribute, and no candidate or elected Trustee shall seek, a contribution or contributions totaling more than \$4,900 per election (with future limits adjusted for inflation) to the campaign of a candidate or elected Trustee seeking an elected office of the District. This policy shall also apply for each elections for which the candidate is an elected Trustee of the District, or a candidate in a general election, special election or a recall election.

The contribution limit of \$4,900 does not apply to the candidate's own monetary contributions to his or her own campaign, but will preclude a candidate from contributing more than the contribution limit to another candidate's campaign for an elected office of the District. Further, a candidate's spouse shall also be precluded from using their own separate property to exceed the contribution limit.

This policy shall further require that any candidate or elected Trustee for District office shall conform to all relevant campaign reporting requirements as required under California law, including, but not limited to, filing campaign finance disclosures and any other related reporting requirements. This policy requires that any campaign finances disclosures that are required to be filed with the California Secretary of State, the Orange County Registrar or anyone else shall also be required to be filed with the District and shall be due on the same dates as they are due to be filed with any other agency. Electronic delivery to the district is acceptable.

The Board of Trustees resolve that this policy requires that any contribution received by a candidate or elected Trustee in excess of the contribution limitation must be refused by that candidate or elected Trustee. Any excess contributions must be returned to the contributor within 10 days of receipt. Any improper solicitation, receipt, holding, or failure to return excess funds shall be considered a violation of this policy and shall subject the candidate or elected Trustee to the Board's imposition of an administrative penalty upon election, including being banned from serving as an officer of the District, censure, reprimand, or serving on any District committee. Findings by the board of violations of this policy, including without limitation, the failure to file any campaign finance reports shall be an ethics violation and also subject the violator to relevant penalties or other Board action consistent with the Board's code of ethics and Board Policy 2715.

Adopted: April 12, 2021
Revised: July 12, 2021