

## Vanni, Mark

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**From:** Campaign Guidance  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:24 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; Milan Adea Zavolta; Campaign Guidance  
**Subject:** RE: Question Regarding Voter Contributions

Yes, “per election” means the contribution limit applies to primary, general and special elections separately. Here are the relevant San Jose Municipal Code sections (current contribution limits posted on the City website have been increased by the CPI index):

### [12.06.210 - Campaign contribution limitations.](#)

*A. Beginning January 1, 2011, the total campaign contribution made by any person to any council candidate and any controlled committee of that candidate, other than the candidate in aid of himself or herself, may not exceed:*

- 1. Five hundred dollars for the primary election;*
- 2. Five hundred dollars for the general election, if any;*
- 3. Five hundred dollars for any special election;*
- 4. Five hundred dollars for any special run-off election, if any.*

*B. Beginning January 1, 2011, the total campaign contribution made by any person to any mayoral candidate and any controlled committee of that candidate, other than the candidate in aid of himself or herself, may not exceed:*

- 1. One thousand dollars for the primary election;*
- 2. One thousand dollars for the general election, if any;*
- 3. One thousand dollars for any special election;*
- 4. One thousand dollars for any special run-off election, if any.*

*C. The total post-election contribution made by any person to any council or mayoral candidate and any controlled committee of that candidate, other than the candidate in aid of himself or herself, may not exceed:*

- 1. One thousand one hundred dollars for the post-election contribution after the primary election;*
- 2. One thousand one hundred dollars for the post-election contribution after the general election, if any;*
- 3. One thousand one hundred dollars for the post-election contribution for any special election;*

4. One thousand one hundred dollars for the post-election contribution for any special run-off election, if any.

D. Two hundred and eighty (280) days before every regularly scheduled primary municipal election, the City Clerk must determine whether the cost of living, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items (with a base period of 1982-1984=100) for All Urban Consumers in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, has increased during the "adjustment period" as defined in this Section.

1. Each adjustment period will be the CPI reported for the month of December 2010 and the CPI reported for the month that is at least two hundred and eighty days (280) days before the regularly scheduled primary municipal election.

2. If the CPI has increased for the applicable adjustment period, the City Clerk must multiply the contribution limits established in Subsections A. and B. by the percentage increase for the adjustment period. If the calculation results in an amount that is higher than the previously established contribution limit(s) when rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars (\$100), the City Clerk will recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution adjusting the contribution limit(s) established in Subsections A. and/or B. by the percentage increase rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars (\$100). The contribution limit established in Subsection C. shall be the same as the limits established in Subsection B., as adjusted.

3. In the event the City Council adopts a resolution adjusting the contribution limits, the City Clerk will publish the adjusted contribution limits at least one hundred and ninety (190) days before the regularly scheduled primary municipal election.

4. In the event the CPI is no longer published, the City Clerk will use as a reference another index published by either the State of California or a federal department or agency that is charged with the responsibility of measuring the cost of living in the geographical area that includes the City of San José.

**Campaign Guidance**  
**Office of the City Attorney**  
**City of San José**  
**200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor Tower**  
**San Jose, CA 95113**  
**Office No: (408) 535-1900**  
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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 3:53 PM  
**To:** Milan Adaea Zavolta <[REDACTED]>; Campaign Guidance <SJElections@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Question Regarding Voter Contributions

Hello,

Forwarding your email to [SJElections@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:SJElections@sanjoseca.gov).

Thank you,

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Milan Adea Zavolta <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Question Regarding Voter Contributions

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To whom it may concern,

I was hoping to get some clarification on the following statement from the [San Jose City website](#): *"Contribution limits for the 2022 elections are \$700 per "person" per election for Councilmember candidates and \$1400 per "person" per election for the Mayoral candidates. "Person" is defined as an individual, business entity, foundation, organization, committee or association, nonprofit corporation, and any other organization or group of people acting in concert."*

Does "per election" mean the contribution limit applies to primary and general elections separately? In other words, can a person donate the maximum \$700 or \$1400 for the primary and again for the general election or is it primary and general combined?

Thank you very much.

From,  
Milan Adea Zavolta  
Posse Scholar  
B.A. Political Science  
University of California Berkeley  
[REDACTED]

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