

**AN ORDINANCE TO ~~REPEAL~~AMEND CHAPTER 226 OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE
LIMITS AND REGULATIONS.**

WHEREAS, campaign spending is a form of political speech protected by the First Amendment, and the government should not penalize citizens for engaging in political discourse and the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, excessively low campaign fundraising caps have led to less transparency in the political process in recent years; and

WHEREAS, campaign fundraising caps should not effectively block candidates from mounting an effective campaign and/or force candidates to spend an increasing amount of time raising money in small increments, distracting them from interacting with the public and their constituents; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the City established a campaign finance limitation of \$100; and

WHEREAS, even after inflation, raising the donation limit to \$500 would represent a significant increase while still imposing a reasonable and legitimate regulation ensuring democratic equality and that all citizens have meaningful participation in Hudson's municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to ~~repeal~~amend campaign finance limits, ~~thereby restoring transparency to the political process and while still~~ allowing Hudson's residents to give voice to their First Amendment rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Hudson, Summit County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. Chapter Section 226.01(c) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Hudson be ~~repealed~~ amended as follows, with additions being in **bold and underlined**, while deletions are stricken through and underlined: effective immediately.

(c) Limits on non-cash monetary and in-kind contributions and loans. No candidate for Mayor or Council shall accept or solicit, as a non-cash monetary (i.e., checks, money orders, credit cards) or in-kind campaign contribution or loan, more than ~~one~~ **five** hundred dollars (~~\$500.00~~**100.00**) from any person, campaign committee, political party, or political action committee within any calendar year. No person, political action committee, political party or political campaign shall contribute funds or in-kind contributions in excess of said

amounts. Contributions from the candidate and labor of volunteers are exempt from these provisions.

Section 2. That the aforesaid recitals are rendered to be the findings of this Council and are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance and restated here

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED:

Jeffrey Anzevino, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aparna Wheeler, Clerk of Council

I certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 26-_____ was duly passed by the Council of said Municipality on _____.

Aparna Wheeler, Clerk of Council