

LET'S TALK, LONG BEACH!

Gerrie Schipske for Mayor 2022 * FPPC#1443480 * gerrie@schipske4LB.com * www.schipske4LB.com

SUPPORT THE LONG BEACH ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

Long Beach politics aren't broken. They're fixed.

Help Gerrie Schipske bring together conservatives, progressives, and everyone in between to put a measure on the ballot to clean up local politics and stop political bribery.

The Long Beach Anti-Corruption Act sets a standard for our city that puts power back in the hands of the people.

WHY WE NEED THE LONG BEACH ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

Long Beach politics aren't broken. They're fixed. Gerrie Schipske is proposing a ballot measure to undo Long Beach's corrupt political system, so that government works again for all residents, not just a handful of special interests.

Key provisions of the Long Beach Anti-Corruption Act

- Make it illegal for politicians to take money from lobbyists, contractors, developers, and police and fire unions.
- Ban lobbyist bundling.
- Prevent politicians from fundraising during working hours and using their officeholder accounts for political campaigns.
- Immediately disclose political money online.
- Stop donors from hiding behind secret-money groups.
- Change how elections are funded.
- Require the Mayor and City Council to get the permission of voters to give away City property and property tax revenue.
- Require full disclosure of the activities of lobbyists and political consultants and their contact with City elected officials.
- Require independent expenditure committees to disclose in their voter contact materials the top five sources of their funding.
- Require elected officials to post their voting records and campaign finance reports directly on their city website.
- Strengthen anti-corruption enforcement by establishing an Office of Inspector General to investigate employee and elected officials' misconduct, fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds.

Want to explain corruption to your friends? Here's a great place to start: Have you ever felt like the government doesn't really care what you think?

A study by Princeton and Northwestern professors looked at more than 20 years' worth of data to answer a simple question: Does the government represent the people? What they found was extremely unsettling: The opinions of 90% of Americans have essentially no impact at all. **One thing that does have an influence. Money.**



While the opinions of the bottom 90% of income earners in America have a “statistically non-significant impact,” special interests, police and fire unions, contractors, developers, and people who can afford lobbyists still carry major influence.

WAIT A MINUTE. DIDN'T THE VOTERS OF LONG BEACH PASS A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ACT (LBCFRA) IN 1994 TO CURB THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY ON CITY ELECTIONS?

Yes, they did. But the Mayor and City Council set about to destroy it in 2015. Here's how they did it.

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In 1994, the Long Beach voters passed the Long Beach Campaign Finance Reform Act (LBCFRA) to stop elected officials from spending most of their time on fundraising, instead of working for all the people. The Act required that political fundraising could not be done prior to the year before an election.

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[LB Muni Code section 2.01.120 (E)] Officeholders are responding to high campaign costs by raising large amounts of money in off-election years. This fund-raising distracts them from important public matters, encourages contributions that may have a corrupting influence, and gives incumbents an overwhelming and patently unfair fund-raising advantage over potential challengers.

...The integrity of the governmental process, the competitiveness of campaigns, and public confidence in local officials are all diminishing.

The LBCFRA also decreased the amount a person could contribute to a candidate and provided limited matching funds to candidates who agreed to spending limits so that money would not control who got elected.



Officeholder accounts were established by the City Council in 1995, allowing elected officials to raise money to help pay for the cost of holding public office, such as conducting community meetings or supporting nonprofits or charities. Councilmembers and the Mayor were limited to raising a couple of thousand dollars each year and could not use the money for political campaigns.

Then came 2015.

The Mayor and Council changed the amounts that could be raised each year for officeholder accounts to \$30,000 for council members and \$75,000 for the mayor. (Or \$120,000/\$300,000 for their 4-year term in office.)

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But wait, they did more destruction.

In 2017, the Mayor and City Council dealt the most serious blow to the LBCFRA when they removed the bar against using officeholder accounts for political campaigns, allowing political fundraising ALL THE TIME, while their opponents can only begin fundraising one year before an election. Few cities allow officeholder accounts. No other city allows officeholder accounts to be used for political purposes.

Because Long Beach allows contributions from lobbyists and their special interest clients, contractors, developers, and employee unions, the constant stream of political fundraising sets up a serious conflict of interest between those who want something from City Hall and those who can give it.

Another serious conflict of interest has surfaced over the past few years. The Mayor and City Council have placed measures on the ballot to extend term limits and raise taxes and utility rates. Police and fire unions have funded the campaigns for these measures. In return, the Mayor and City Council have approved substantial increases in salaries and benefits for the members of these unions.

The Mayor and City Council did not ask the voters if they could give away property taxes and City property.

Over the past several years, the Mayor and City Council have agreed to deals that resulted in giving away \$248,000 a year (for 15 years) in property taxes so that a developer could be bailed out by the State. They also agreed to lease Community Hospital for \$1 dollar a year and to cover any expenses run up by the private developer. Six months after signing the deal, the private developer closed Community Hospital and now wants the over \$35 million of his expenses. The City has no money so it will give Community Hospital to the developer. They agreed to both deals despite being warned by consultants that they were risky.



The system remains fixed against voters because it is not open, transparent, or accountable.

It is difficult, if not impossible to access information showing how much time the Mayor and City Council spend meeting with lobbyists and special interests or to determine how these contacts affect the votes of the elected officials. Information is scattered on several parts of the City website, instead of linked directly to each elected official.

There is a considerable time lag between a political contribution being made and reported.

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Campaign finance reports do not include information disclosing the contributor being a registered lobbyist, special interest, political consultant, contractor, or developer doing business or seeking to do business with the City.

Why does Long Beach need an Anti-Corruption Act and an Inspector General to enforce it?

We are just learning from a whistleblower inside the City Auditor's office, that the Auditor may have been paying a political consultant a million dollars out of City funds without disclosing what the contract contains. Ironically, it is the City Auditor who is required to verify that City contracts are appropriate so that there is no fraud, waste, or abuse of City revenues.

Cities, such as Portland, Oregon make relationships between city officials and political consultants more transparent. Under their ordinance, a political consultant must register with the city within 15 days of providing consulting services to a city elected official. Elected officials are also required to file quarterly reports identifying any political consultants who provided services to the official.

Long Beach needs an Inspector General to focus squarely on investigations and prosecutions of public sector fraud, waste, and misconduct.

What can Long Beach voters do to stop this?

Help Gerrie Schipske bring together conservatives, progressives, and everyone in between to pass the Long Beach Anti-Corruption Act and fix our broken system.

Ready to join the fight? Go to www.schipske4LB.com and add your name to put a measure on the November 2022 ballot. We can do it! Let's get Long Beach working again, for all of us!

