

**ADDENDUM
TO THE CAUCUS PRIOR MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

I. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: COUNCILMAN ROBERTS

1. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 524 OF THE BROOK PARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED "CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGULATION", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Councilman Dufour - PER COUNCIL PRESIDENT SALVATORE.

CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO

P/C 4/21/26 legislative
CA _____
1st R _____
2nd R _____
3rd R _____
B/C _____

Ordinance No. _____

Introduced By: COUNCILMAN DUFOUR

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 524 OF THE BROOK PARK CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED "CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGULATION", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the integrity of the electoral process is essential to the functioning of a representative democracy and the preservation of public confidence in government; and

WHEREAS, public office should be accessible to any dedicated citizen with a desire to serve, not just those with access to deep pockets or special interest funding; and

WHEREAS, in a tight-knit community like Brook Park, officials should be elected by their connection to the residents of our city, not large-dollar donors; and

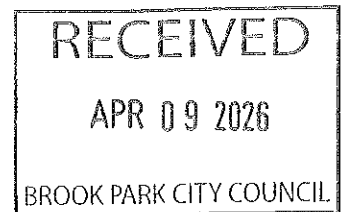
WHEREAS, the City desires to minimize the risk of undue influence and protect the integrity of our local elections by restricting the size of contributions, thereby protecting public servants from political pressure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Brook Park codified ordinances shall be supplemented by enacting a new Chapter 524, entitled "Campaign Finance Regulation" is hereby enacted to read as follows:

524.01 Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to Chapter 524:



(a) "Campaign committee" or "committee" means any candidate or combination of two (2) or more individuals acting jointly to bring about the nomination or election of one (1) or more candidates for the office of the Mayor or the office of a member of Council.

(b) "Candidate" means any individual listed on a ballot for nomination to or election to the office of the Mayor or the office of a member of Council, or who has organized a campaign committee for the purpose of engaging in a write-in campaign for election to the office of the Mayor or the office of a member of Council, or who files a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate pursuant to the general laws of the state, or who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure or gives his or her consent for any other person to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view toward bringing about his or her candidacy or election to the office of the Mayor or the office of a member of Council.

(c) "Contribution" means a gift, loan, advance, deposit, forgiveness of indebtedness, donation, payment or transfer of money or transfer of anything of value, made directly or indirectly in aid of the nomination or election of one (1) or more candidates for the office of the Mayor or the office of a member of Council. It shall not include services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time or ordinary home hospitality or personal expenses of a volunteer paid for by that volunteer.

(d) "Corporation" means a corporation, whether for profit or nonprofit.

(e) "Election" means any primary, regular or special election held in the City for the office of Mayor or the office of member of Council.

(f) "Individual" means any person, excluding corporations, political parties, and political action committees.

(g) "Person" shall mean any individual, partnership, corporation, association, firm, committee, club or other

organization or group of persons, however organized.

(h) "Political action committee" shall have the same meaning as provided in RC 3517.01.

(i) "Political party" shall have the same meaning as contained in RC Title 524V, as the same shall be amended from time to time.

524.02 Limitations on Campaign Contributions

(a) No individual shall make, and no candidate for the office of Mayor on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the office of Mayor shall accept, any contribution which exceeds a total of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per individual contributor per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(b) No political action committee shall make, and no candidate for the office of Mayor on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the office of Mayor shall accept, any contribution which exceeds a total of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per political action committee per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(c) No individual shall make, and no candidate for the office of a member of Council on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the office of member of Council shall accept, any contribution which exceeds a total of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per individual contributor per calendar year in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, no political action committee shall make, and no candidate for the office of member of Council on his or her own behalf, or committee on behalf of a candidate, shall accept any contribution which exceeds a total of three thousand dollars

(\$3,000.00) per political action committee per calendar year, in support of a primary and regular election combined, or primary and special election combined.

(e) No corporation shall make, and no candidate for the offices of Mayor or member of Council shall accept on his or her own behalf or committee on behalf of a candidate for the offices of Mayor or member of Council shall accept from a corporation, any contribution in support of a primary and regular election combined, or a primary and special election combined.

(f) The limitations set forth in divisions (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section apply to aggregate gifts during any given calendar year. A contributor may make a contribution up to the applicable limit in each of any non-election years, as well as the year of the election.

(g) In the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of member of Council, or the office of Mayor, the contribution limits provided for in this section shall apply to the election campaign period for such office.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, there is no limitation on the amount of personal funds that a candidate may make to his or her own campaign.

(i) This section shall apply to any contributions made to a candidate or committee, whether used by the candidate or committee to finance a current campaign, to pay deficits incurred in a prior campaign, or otherwise.

524.03 Notice; Appeals; Penalties

(a) Enforcement of this Chapter shall be initiated by the filing of a sworn affidavit with the Clerk of Council by any registered elector of the City of Brook Park. The affidavit must set forth specific facts constituting a violation of Section 524.02 and must be notarized. Unsworn or anonymous complaints shall not be processed.

(b) (1) Upon receipt of a sworn complaint, the Clerk shall transmit the complaint to the Director of Law for a preliminary review to determine if the facts alleged, if true, would constitute a violation.

(2) In the event the complaint alleges a violation by the Mayor or Director of Law, the Clerk shall not transmit the complaint to the Director of Law. Instead, the Clerk shall notify City Council, which shall appoint independent Special Counsel within thirty (30) days to serve in place of the Director of Law for the limited purpose of reviewing and adjudicating that specific complaint.

(c) If the Director of Law or Special Counsel determines that a complaint was filed frivolously, maliciously, without probable cause, or solely for the purpose of harassment, the complaint shall be dismissed. The City may seek to recover reasonable administrative costs and attorney fees incurred by the City from the complainant filing such frivolous charges.

(d) If a violation is found to exist, the Director of Law or Special Counsel shall give written notice of the violation to the accused person, candidate, or committee. There shall be no penalty for any prohibited activity set forth in Section 524.02 which is remedied within fifteen (15) days of the date of the written notice.

(e) Any person cited pursuant to this Chapter may contest the citation by filing a written notice with the Law Director or Special Counsel within thirty (30) days. Upon receipt of such notice, the Law Director or Special Counsel shall file a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to adjudicate the alleged violation. If the court finds a violation occurred and renders judgment in favor of the City, the person so cited shall be responsible for the penalty plus all court costs and filing fees.

(f) In addition to any penalties applicable under state law, the following penalties apply to contribution limits under sections of this code:

(1) For a contribution in excess of the limits in 524.02, the candidate shall pay the City General Fund three dollars for every dollar accepted in excess of the limit, unless the excess is completely refunded within fifteen (15) days after notification to the recipient of the contribution that a contribution in excess of the permitted amount had been received.

(2) For intentional or persistent violations of contribution limits, a candidate shall pay the City General Fund five hundred dollars or five times the amount accepted in excess of the limit, whichever is greater.

SECTION 2: 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 of 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 3 This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of said City, and to enact Chapter 524 of the Park Codified Ordinances; therefore, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

DATE

HEREBY APPROVE THE WITHIN
INSTRUMENT AS TO LEGAL FORM
AND CORRECTNESS.


DIRECTOR OF LAW