
**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)
New Item for Review and Consideration****Meeting Date: 03/29/2016
Agenda Item: 4B4**

Issue Description: Add the possibility of the creation of a lobbyist registration to the purview of the Campaign Finance Working Group.

Presented by: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Woods, Councilmember Kuby

What are you looking to accomplish? Increase transparency

Background Information: On September 3, 2015, the Council gave direction to Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Woods, and Councilmember Kuby to create a working group to examine campaign finance reform for City of Tempe Elections. That working group recommended an ordinance and charter amendment to lower the contribution limits for municipal elections back down to 2012 levels. On October 15th, the working group returned to the Committee of the Whole with this recommendation and the Council gave direction to place the ordinance and charter amendment on the next Regular Council Meeting (RCM). Charter amendment approved at the October 22nd RCM and the ordinance passed at the November 12th RCM. The charter amendment was passed by municipal voters on March 8, 2016.

The working group then met to discuss what other changes would meet its charge of enhancing a strong community connection between the Tempe municipal government and residents, while providing for an open and transparent system. Discussions began to center on the need for a lobbyist registration. The City of Phoenix has had a lobbyist registration ordinance on the books since July 7, 1993. Their goal was to provide the public with information about the identity of paid lobbyists, individuals and organizations whose interests are being served by paid lobbyists, what funds are being expended, and who is benefiting from these expenditures and campaign contributions. The goals are also applicable to the City of Tempe.

What stakeholders should be engaged with this process? City of Phoenix for guidance, League of Women Voters, Arizona Advocacy Network, the general public, neighborhood groups, local political groups and political party leadership if interested.

Anticipated Timeframe and Staff Resources: Estimate of time and staff resources is 20 hours.

The Tempe City Council is committed to:

- 1. Ensuring a safe and secure community through a commitment to public safety and justice.*
- 2. Developing and maintaining a strong community connection by emphasizing the importance of open government, customer service and communication with community members.*
- 3. Enhancing the quality of life for all Tempe residents and workers through investment in neighborhoods, parks, the arts, human services, and city amenities, with an emphasis on equity and diversity.*
- 4. Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by actively seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community.*
- 5. Maintaining long term financial stability and vitality by focusing on economic development, business retention and generating employment to create a robust and diverse economic base.*