



CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 026-047
DATE OF PASSAGE July 14, 2026

An Ordinance amending and adding Sections 15-120, 15-130, 15-320, 15-321, and 15-322 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Aurora pertaining to campaign contributions and campaign fundraising.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in August 1984 the City Council adopted Ordinance O84-4298 prescribing ethical standards for City officers and employees, requiring disclosures of economic interests, and regulating outside employment; and

WHEREAS, the ethics provisions of the City Code have been amended from time to time, including most recently in 2019 and 2022 with Ordinances O19-047 and O22-069; and

WHEREAS, since that time Illinois law regarding the disclosure of economic interests, campaign contributions, and lobbying has evolved significantly, rendering certain provisions of Ordinance O84-4298 as amended duplicative or obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined strengthening local disclosure requirements, clarifying campaign contribution limits, prohibiting lobbyist contributions, and regulating the use of City property and the City seal will enhance transparency, reduce undue influence, and protect City resources; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Code and the authority granted to home rule units, the City Council finds it appropriate to amend Sections 2-185, 15-130, and 15-320, and add Sections 15-321, 15-322, and 15-354 to the Code of Ordinances to modernize Aurora's ethics framework, as indicated in the Ethics Omnibus Ordinance, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ORDINANCE NO. 024-047
DATE OF PASSAGE July 14, 2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the City of Aurora Code of Ordinances is hereby amended, effective immediately, as set forth in Exhibit A, Ethics Omnibus Ordinance - Ch. 15 Contribution Limits, to strengthen the City's ethics provisions regarding disclosure of campaign contributions and campaign fundraising.

SECTION TWO: SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION FOUR: REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES. All prior Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-047

LEGISTAR NO. 26-0406

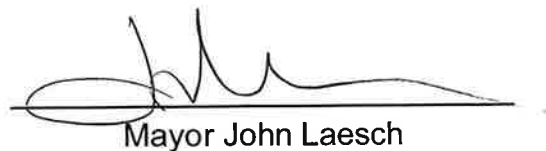
PASSED AND APPROVED ON: July 14, 2026

AYES 8 NAYS 2 NOT VOTING 0 ABSENT 2

ALDERMAN	Vote
Alderman Barreiro, Ward 1	absent
Alderwoman Garza, Ward 2	yes
Alderman Mesiacos, Ward 3	absent
Alderman Núñez, Ward 4	yes
Alderman Franco, Ward 5	yes
Alderman Saville, Ward 6	yes
Alderman Bañuelos, Ward 7	yes
Alderwoman Smith, Ward 8	yes
Alderman Bugg, Ward 9	no
Alderwoman Baid, Ward 10	yes
Alderman Larson, At-Large	yes
Alderman White, At-Large	no

ATTEST:


City Clerk Jennifer Stallings


Mayor John Laesch

AS PASSED**Chapter 15: Ethics**

Sec 15-120 Application Of Ordinance

This chapter applies to the following entities and persons upon its effective date:

(a) The mayor and city council.

(b) All governmental boards, commissions, committees or other entities created by the city council.

(c) All governmental boards, commissions, committees or other entities for which the city council may by law define powers and duties, or to which ordinances adopted by the city council are generally applicable.

(d) All officers and employees of any of the above entities.

Nothing in this chapter is meant to contradict Illinois Public Act 104-0443.

Sec 15-130(b) Definitions

For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

(b) ~~Candidate means an individual who has filed nominating papers or petitions for nomination or election to an elected office, or who has been appointed to fill a vacancy in nomination, and who remains eligible for placement on the ballot at a regular election, as defined in Section 13 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/13-1).~~

AS PASSED

1 "Candidate" is defined the same as in the Illinois
2 Election Code, 10 ILCS 5/9-1.3, or as subsequently
3 amended.

4 ***

5 "Doing business" means any one or any combination of
6 sales, purchases, leases or contracts to, from or with
7 the city or any city department in an amount in excess
8 of \$50,000 in any 12 consecutive months; and "seeking to
9 do business" means (1) taking any action within the past
10 six months to obtain a contract or business from the
11 city when, if such action were successful, it would
12 result in the person's doing business with the city; and
13 (2) having any matter pending before the city council or
14 any city council committee in the three months prior to
15 the date of the contribution or any matter that will be
16 pending before the city council or any city council
17 committee in the three months after the date of the
18 contribution, if that matter involved the award of loan
19 funds, grant funds or bond proceeds, bond inducement
20 ordinances, leases, land sales, zoning matters, the
21 creation of tax increment financing districts,
22 concession agreements or establishing or changing
23 property tax classifications.~~Reserved.~~

24 ***

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~~(w) Does business or seeks to do business with the city or in the case of an employee, by the employee, or by the officer, or another employee directing the employee;~~

~~1. Conducts activities regulated by the officer or in the case of an employee, by the employee, by the city, or by the officer, or another employee directing the employee;~~

~~2. Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the official duties of the city officer or employee;~~

~~3. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act or ordinance pertaining to the registration of lobbyists enacted by the city, except that an entity not otherwise a prohibited source does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one (1) of its members or serves on its board of directors; or~~

~~4.1. Is an agent of, a spouse or civil union partner of, or a family member who is living with a "prohibited source."~~

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1 Sec 15-320 Political Contributions.

2 (a) All officers and employees who hold elective city office
3 or become candidates for election to any public office
4 of this State or any of its subdivisions shall comply
5 with the applicable limitations on campaign
6 contributions as set forth in Article 9 of the Election
7 Code of Illinois and as may be adjusted by the State
8 Board of Elections as provided by State law.

9 (b) No officer or employee, individually or through a
10 political committee acting at his or her behest, shall
11 knowingly accept a campaign contribution or
12 contributions in excess of the amounts authorized by law.

13 (c) No public official, city employee, candidate for an
14 elective office, lobbyist, officer, employee, or agent
15 of any political organization shall intentionally
16 solicit, accept, offer or make contributions on city
17 property. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit
18 fundraising events at city parks for political campaigns
19 provided that the fundraiser pays the same park fees
20 charged to the public.

21 (d) No person shall offer or make, and no candidate for city
22 office, such candidate's political committee, or PAC, or
23 person acting on behalf of either of them shall solicit
24 or accept, any contribution that is (a) anonymously

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1 given in violation of state law; or (b) made or to be
2 made other than in the name of the true donor.

3
4 Sec 15-321 Contribution Limits for Entities Doing Business with
5 the City of Aurora.

6 (a) No entity who has done business with the city during the
7 preceding ~~twenty-four (24) months~~ or who is seeking to
8 do business with the city shall make contributions in an
9 aggregate amount exceeding \$1500.00:

10 1. To any candidate for city office during a calendar
11 year; or

12 2. To an elected official of the government of the
13 city during any calendar year of the official's
14 term; or

15 3. During a calendar year, to any official or employee
16 of the city who is seeking election to any other
17 office.

18 (b) For purposes of subsection (a), an entity and its
19 subsidiaries, parent company or otherwise affiliated
20 companies, and any of their employees, officers,
21 directors and partners who make a political contribution
22 for which they are reimbursed by the entity or its
23 affiliates shall be considered a single person. An
24 employee, officer, director or partner of an entity

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1 subject to these restrictions is also subject to these
2 campaign contribution limits if they are:

3 1. A general partner, managing member, executive
4 officer, or any individual with a similar status or
5 function; or

6 2. They are materially involved in bidding for,
7 negotiating the terms of, or managing
8 implementation of any agreement to do business with
9 the city.

10 The contribution limits apply separately to any entity
11 or person subject to these restrictions except as set
12 forth in this subsection (b).

13 (c) For purposes of subsection (a) above, a contribution to
14 any political fund-raising committee of a candidate for
15 city office or elected official shall be considered a
16 contribution to that candidate or elected official.

17 (d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any
18 person who solicits, accepts, offers or makes a
19 financial contribution that violates the limits set
20 forth in this section shall be subject to the penalties
21 provided in this Article; provided, however, such person
22 shall not be deemed in violation of this section if such
23 person returns or requests in writing the return of such
24 financial contribution within 30 calendar days of the

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1 recipient's or contributor's knowledge of the violation.
2 No person or entity who has been found in violation of
3 Section 15-321 may do business with the city for a period
4 of four years.

5
6 Sec 15-322 Contribution Limits for Lobbyists

7 (a) No lobbyist or government relations specialist who lobby
8 the city or any elected official of the city shall make
9 a direct or in-kind contribution to any elected official
10 or their authorized political committee or PAC, or to
11 any candidate for elected office or that candidate's
12 authorized political committee or PAC.

13 (b) Any person who solicits, accepts, offers or makes a
14 financial contribution that violates the limits set
15 forth in this section shall be subject to the penalties
16 provided in this Article; provided, however, such person
17 shall not be deemed in violation of this section if such
18 person returns or requests in writing the return of such
19 financial contribution within 30 calendar days of the
20 recipient's or contributor's knowledge of the violation.
21 Notwithstanding the foregoing, any lobbyist shall be
22 subject to a penalty equal to the amount of the
23 contribution.