

Introduced by the County Executive and Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves

LOCAL LAW NO. 12 -2015

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY TO REQUIRE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO AFFIRM SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS WERE NOT MADE WITH AN EXPECTATION OF A PUBLIC BENEFIT

Passed by the Nassau County Legislature on December 21, 2015

Voting: ayes: 19, nays: 0, abstained: 0

Became a law on December 22, 2015 with the approval of the County Executive.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

*[Handwritten signature]*

Deputy County Attorney

WHEREAS, this Legislature has recently enacted laws to provide for registration, increased oversight and public disclosure of lobbyists and vendors operating in or doing business with Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of the public good such laws provide greater transparency as to the operations of County government and as to the activities of those entities or individuals that do business or seek to do business with Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Election Law governs the conduct of elections and campaign finance and disclosure requirements for every County office; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to promote even greater transparency and enhanced disclosure with regard to campaign contribution activity to elected Nassau County officials and candidates for office by those entities that lobby, do business or seek to do business with Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, any such individual or entity pursuing or performing work pursuant to a County contract or lobbying on behalf of a client that chooses to exercise its constitutional right to financially support the candidacy of those that seek or hold a public office must do so without an expectation of a governmental benefit or fear that a failure to do so will result in a reprisal from any government official; now, therefore

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of Nassau County as follows:

Section 1. The County Government Law of Nassau County is amended to add the following section:

**§1122(a) Disclosure of Campaign Contributions**

- c) Any person or organization, prior to the consideration of the Rules Committee of the Nassau County Legislature, or for contracts not subject to the review of the Rules Committee of the Nassau County Legislature, prior to the execution by the County Executive, shall file or cause to be filed with the County Attorney as an addendum to the Vendor Disclosure Form described in §1122 of the County Government Law of Nassau County the following form:

COUNTY OF NASSAU

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

1. Has the vendor or any corporate officers of the vendor provided campaign contributions pursuant to the New York State Election Law in (a) the period beginning April 1, 2016 and ending on the date of this disclosure, or (b), beginning April 1, 2018, the period beginning two years prior to the date of this disclosure and ending on the date of this disclosure, to the campaign committees of any of the following Nassau County elected officials or to the campaign committees of any candidates for any of the following Nassau County elected offices: the County Executive, the County Clerk, the Comptroller, the District Attorney, or any County Legislator? If yes, to what campaign committee?

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2. VERIFICATION: This section must be signed by a principal of the consultant, contractor or Vendor authorized as a signatory of the firm for the purpose of executing Contracts.

The undersigned affirms and so swears that he/she has read and understood the foregoing statements and they are, to his/her knowledge, true and accurate.

The undersigned further certifies and affirms that the contribution(s) to the campaign committees identified above were made freely and without duress, threat or any promise of a governmental benefit or in exchange for any benefit or remuneration.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Any party that fails to submit the form required by this section shall be deemed a non-responsible bidder and no contract shall be awarded to them.

§2. §1111(c) of the County Government Law of Nassau County is amended to add the following subsection:

- (7) A list of the campaign committees to which a contribution have been made within the previous year pursuant to the New York State Election Law for any of the following Nassau County elected offices or for any candidate for the following Nassau County elected offices: the County Executive, the County Clerk, the Comptroller, the District Attorney, or any County Legislator.

- (8) The following certification:

The undersigned affirms and so swears that he/she has read and understood the foregoing statements and they are, to his/her knowledge, true and accurate.

The undersigned further certifies and affirms that the contribution(s) to the campaign committees listed above were made freely and without duress, threat or any promise of a governmental benefit or in exchange for any benefit or remuneration.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

§3. §1121 of the County Government Law of Nassau County is amended to read as follows:

**§1121. New York State Registration Requirements**

- (d) Any lobbyist that is required to file a Statement of Registration pursuant to Section 1-e of the New York State Legislative Law shall be deemed to have complied with the registration and reporting requirements of this Title provided that the lobbyist files a copy of such Statement of Registration with the County Attorney and Clerk of the Legislature.
- (e) Any such lobbyist filing pursuant to this section must provide as an addendum to the Statement of Registration a list of all campaign committees to which contributions have been made within the previous year pursuant to the New York State Election Law for any of the following Nassau County Elected officials or candidates for the offices of: the County Executive, the County Clerk, the Comptroller, the District Attorney, or any County Legislator.
- (f) Any such lobbyist filing pursuant to this section must provide as an addendum to the Statement of Registration the following verification:

The undersigned affirms and so swears that he/she has read and understood the foregoing statements and they are, to his/her knowledge, true and accurate.

The undersigned further certifies and affirms that the contribution(s) made to the campaign committees identified above were made freely and without duress, threat or any promise of a governmental benefit or in exchange for any benefit or remuneration.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

§4. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6

N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this local law is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(20) and (27) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

§4. This local law shall take effect April 1, 2016.

**APPROVED**



**County Executive**

**DATE** Dec. 22, 2015