



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney St.  
Denton, Texas 76201  
www.cityofdenton.com

## Meeting Agenda Agenda Committee

Thursday, November 7, 2024

8:00 AM

Council Work Session Room

After determining that a quorum is present, the Agenda Committee of the City of Denton, Texas will convene in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be discussed:

### 1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. [AGC24-030](#) Consider approval of the minutes of August 1, 2024.
- B. [AGC24-031](#) Questions regarding City Council’s Future Work Session Matrix items.
- C. [AGC24-032](#) Questions regarding the following City Council agendas:
  - November 19, 2024 - Special Called Meeting
- D. [AGC24-033](#) Questions regarding the 2025 City Council Meeting Schedule.
- E. [AGC24-034](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the City Council’s direction to move forward with a two-minute pitch to examine and reform the City of Denton local campaign finance rules.

- Attachments:**
- [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet](#)
  - [Exhibit 2 - Informal Staff Report](#)
  - [Exhibit 3 - Process Flow Chart](#)

NOTE: The Agenda Committee reserves the right to adjourn into a Closed Meeting on any item on its Regular Meeting agenda consistent with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, including without limitation, Sections 551.071-551.086 of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

### C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the official website (<https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>) and bulletin board at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas, on November 1, 2024, in advance of the 72-hour posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

NOTE: THE CITY OF DENTON'S DESIGNATED PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, IF REQUESTED AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. PLEASE CALL THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 940-349-8309 OR USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR THE DEAF (TDD) BY CALLING 1-800-RELAY-TX SO THAT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED.





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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** AGC24-030, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Consider approval of the minutes of August 1, 2024.



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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** AGC24-031, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Questions regarding City Council's Future Work Session Matrix items.



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## Legislation Text

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**File #: AGC24-032, Version: 1**

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Questions regarding the following City Council agendas:

- November 19, 2024 - Special Called Meeting



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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** AGC24-033, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Questions regarding the 2025 City Council Meeting Schedule.



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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** AGC24-034, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the City Council's direction to move forward with a two-minute pitch to examine and reform the City of Denton local campaign finance rules.



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**AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET**

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager’s Office

**CM/DCM/ACM:** Sara Hensley, City Manager

**DATE:** November 7, 2024

**SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the City Council’s direction to move forward with a two-minute pitch to examine and reform the City of Denton local campaign finance rules.

**BACKGROUND**

On September 17, 2024, Council Member McGee made a two-minute pitch to review and reform the City’s local campaign finance rules. The goal is to increase transparency and accountability by limiting or banning contributions from individuals, relatives, self-funding sources, organizations, and developers. The pitch received consensus and the City Auditor’s Office conducted the initial research and provided the Council the **attached** Informal Staff Report.

**DISCUSSION**

The City Auditor's initial research determined the City has no regulations restricting or limiting campaign contributions. The City has the authority to establish campaign contribution limits so long as the limits do not infringe upon a person’s First Amendment right to free speech and the City can show a perception of corruption justifying such laws. Generally, the State of Texas does not restrict the amount of money that an individual or political committee may contribute to a campaign but does require candidates to appoint a treasurer, file finance reports every six months, and file reports before elections. Some cities such as Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas prohibit the acceptance of campaign contributions from individuals who have a pending matter with the City, such as an application for a permit, proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement, or are involved in ongoing litigation with the City. In general, the applicable ethics commission of each City has some degree of authority over the enforcement of these limitations and restrictions, such as processing a complaint of a suspected violation or recommending the City Attorney pursue prosecution of a municipal code violation.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends routing the item to the Board of Ethics to provide a thorough review and obtain feedback prior to a Council Work Session.

**EXHIBITS**

1. Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet
2. Exhibit 2 – Informal Staff Report
3. Exhibit 3 – Process Flow Chart

Respectfully submitted:  
Frank Dixon, Assistant City Manager



Cassey Ogden, Assistant City Manager  
Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager

Prepared by:  
Carlotta Cowan, Assistant to the City Manager

**INFORMAL STAFF REPORT  
TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT:**

Campaign Financing Ordinance Research

**BACKGROUND:**

On Sept. 11, 2024, Council Member McGee presented a two-minute pitch to hold a comprehensive work session to examine and reform Denton’s local campaign finance rules. On Sept. 17, 2024, the City Council gave direction to proceed with the two-minute pitch proposal as outlined in Ordinance 24-1725.

**DISCUSSION:**

Currently, the City of Denton does not have any regulations that restrict or limit campaign contributions. The State of Texas generally does not restrict the amount of money that a person or political committee may contribute to a campaign but does require candidates to appoint a treasurer, file finance reports every six months, and file reports before elections.

The City of Denton has the authority to establish campaign contribution limits so long as the limits do not infringe upon a person’s First Amendment right to free speech and the City can show a perception of corruption justifying such laws. Other Texas cities have adopted local campaign financing limitations as summarized below:

City	Individual Limit	Political Committee Limits	Aggregate Limits
Houston	\$5,000	\$10,000	
San Antonio	Councilor: \$500 Mayor: \$1,000	Councilor: \$500 Mayor: \$1,000	
Dallas	Councilor: \$1,000 Mayor: \$5,000	Councilor: \$1,000 Mayor: \$5,000	
Austin	\$350	\$1,000	\$36,000 from non-Austin Residents
McAllen	Councilor: \$5,000 Mayor: \$10,000 <i>Proposed: \$500</i>	Councilor: \$5,000 Mayor: \$10,000 <i>Proposed: \$500</i>	
San Marcos	\$500		Mayor: \$0.75/Registered Voter Councilor: \$0.50/Registered Voter

In general, limits on campaign contributions made by a candidate to themselves are not limited and there is an indication that attempts to limit self-contributions have not been upheld by courts. Some cities such as Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas, prohibit the acceptance of campaign contributions from people who have a pending matter before the City, such as an application for a permit, proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement, or are involved in ongoing litigation with the City while those activities are ongoing.

In general, the applicable ethics commission of each City has some degree of authority over the enforcement of these limitations and restrictions, such as processing a complaint of a suspected violation of the limits if one is received. Some ordinances allow these commissions to recommend that the City Attorney pursue prosecution of a municipal code violation.

**CONCLUSION:**

If Council Member McGee wishes to advance the pitch beyond an Informal Staff Report, City Staff will present the information to Agenda Committee with a staff recommendation to route the item through the Board of Ethics prior to Council discussion.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Madison Rorschach, City Auditor

City Auditor's Office

(940) 349-7228

[Madison.Rorschach@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Madison.Rorschach@cityofdenton.com)

**REQUESTOR:**

Council Member McGee

**PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS:**

City Attorney's Office

**STAFF TIME TO COMPLETE REPORT:**

3 Hours

# Process Flow Chart

