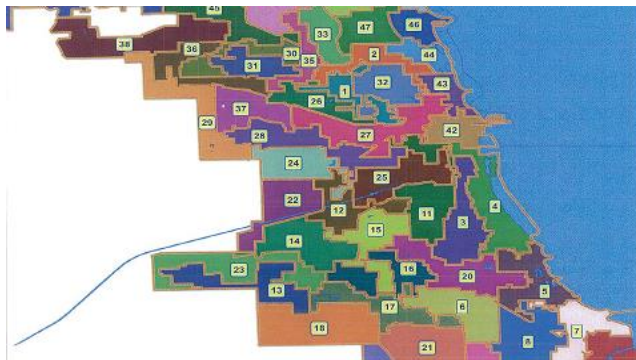


BOARD OF ETHICS ADVISORY REGARDING 2024 ELECTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR WARD COMMITTEEPERSONS

In March and November 2024, Chicago voters will elect candidates for federal office (including President and U.S. Congress), and for some state offices, including the General Assembly, and for Cook County offices, such as State's Attorney. Chicago voters will also elect Ward Committeepersons for established political parties in all 50 City wards. Some current Chicago City Council members and some City of Chicago employees will stand for election or re-election for Ward Committeeperson on March 19, 2024.

The City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance restricts the times, places, and resources that City employees and officials may engage in or use for political activity, including working for candidates in **any** of these upcoming elections. And, the Ordinance's caps on campaign contributions apply to contributions made to sitting City elected officials or current City employees who are running for Ward Committeeperson, or for any other non-City elected office, except for U.S. Congress or President.



RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND WORKING ON ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

For a summary of the restrictions imposed by City law on City personnel who wish to work in connection with these upcoming elections, see the Board's Plain English Guide to Political Activity and Election Work, here:

<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/Publications/Pol-ACT-2015.pdf>

RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES FOR WARD COMMITTEEPERSON

The office of Ward Committeeperson is **not** a City elected office. It is, rather, a party office, established under the Illinois Election Code. Nonetheless, the City's Governmental Ethics Ordinance applies to campaign contributions made to Chicago officials or employees who are *also* candidates for Ward Committeeperson. The Ordinance subjects certain persons or entities to a \$1,500 annual cap on political contributions made to "any official or employee of the city who is seeking election to *any other [that is, non-City] office.*" See §2-156-445(a).

<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/Ordinances/GEO-2019-color%20through%20August%202022.pdf>

In Case No. 09058.Q

http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/AO_CampFinancing/09058Q.pdf),

the Board of Ethics determined that if, for example, Ald. Jones of the 52nd Ward is also a candidate for Democratic Ward committeeperson of her ward, then, under state law, she must establish two separate committees—one for each elected office, that is, one for her City Council office and a second for her Ward Committeeperson candidacy.

Persons or business entities who are subject to the annual \$1,500 cap on political contributions* may contribute up to the \$1,500 limit to each of Ald. Jones's official committees in a single calendar year—that is,

\$1,500 to “Jones for 52nd Ward Alderperson” and another \$1,500 to “Jones for Ward Committeeperson,” for a total of \$3,000 in a single calendar year.¹

The office of Ward Committeeperson is decided in a single election, called the General Primary Election. Therefore, in a single calendar year, persons subject to the Ordinance’s contribution limits* may contribute up to \$1,500 to a sitting City elected official’s authorized political committee for their City office, and up to an additional \$1,500 to their political committee for Ward Committeeperson, but no more to either committee. If the candidate for Ward Committeeperson is a City employee, they may contribute up to \$1,500 to that employee’s Ward Committeeperson committee in a single calendar year.



*Persons subject to this limit are: (1) persons who have “done business with” (as defined in §2-156-010(h)) the City, or Chicago Transit Authority, Board of Education, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Public Building Commission, Chicago Park District, Chicago City Colleges, or Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority within the preceding four calendar years; (2) persons seeking to do business [as defined in §§2-156-445(a) and 2-156-010(x)] with any of these government entities; and (3) lobbyists registered with the Board of Ethics.

QUESTIONS? If you’re a candidate for Ward Committeeperson, or represent or work for one, and have questions about these provisions, please consult with the Board of Ethics for confidential advice.

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¹Note: if a current City employee or official is running for a non-City elected office that has both a primary and general election, for example, Cook County State’s Attorney, the primary and general elections are considered separate and distinct candidacies. Thus a person or entity subject to the Ordinance’s \$1,500 per year/per candidate cap could contribute, in a single calendar year, \$3,000 to “Jones for State’s Attorney” (\$1,500 for the March 2024 primary and another \$1,500 for the November 2024 general election).