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LEEANN PELHAM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: March 11, 2019

To: Members of the Ethics Commission

From: Pat Ford, Senior Policy Analyst
Brian Cox, Policy Analyst

Re: **AGENDA ITEM 4 – Informational Presentation on Report Required by SFC&GCC Sec. 1.156 on Public Financing in the 2018 Elections.**

Summary This item is placed on the March agenda to allow a public presentation of a report prepared by Staff as required by SFC&GCC Section 1.156 for submission to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

Action Requested This item is presented for the Commission’s information. No action is required.

The Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code requires that “[f]ollowing each election at which the Mayor or members of the Board of Supervisors are elected, the Ethics Commission shall submit a report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors” that provides certain information about the use of public financing in that election.¹ In the June 5, 2018 election, voters selected candidates for the offices of Mayor and member of the Board of Supervisors representing District 8. In the November 6, 2018 election, voters selected candidates for the Board of Supervisors representing Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10.

At the Commission’s regularly scheduled March 15, 2019 meeting, Staff will present highlights from a report that describes the operation of the public financing program in both elections and will transmit that report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors in fulfillment of the requirements of section 1.156.

The report required by Section 1.156 must include data on the number of participating and non-participating candidates, the number of candidates who received public funding and the amount of public funds they received, the amount of qualified campaign expenditures made by all candidates, and the amount of independent expenditures made in connection with the election. It may also provide any other relevant information the Commission may wish to include.

¹ Campaign & Gov. Conduct Code § 1.156.

The 2018 report presents the information required by section 1.156 and additional information that is helpful in understanding the program's operation. The information is based on data reported in campaign disclosure statements covering the start of the candidates' campaigns through December 31, 2018, the latest date for which disclosures are currently available. It also includes information from disclosures filed by third-party spenders and from Commission records of public funds disbursements to participating candidates.

Additionally, the concluding section of this report provides brief historical data of the public financing program in City elections and identifies several areas for analysis and review. This is intended to help provide context for the Commission's ongoing review of the public financing program aimed at maximizing its effectiveness in City campaigns.

We look forward to presenting the report at your meeting on March 15th and to answering any questions you may have at that time.