

# **THE FREDERICKSBURG CLEAN GOVERNMENT ACT**

## **A. PREVENT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND POLITICAL BRIBERY**

### **PROVISION 1: PROHIBIT POLITICIANS FROM RAISING FUNDS FROM LOBBYISTS**

- Members of City Council and declared candidates for city office may not accept contributions from lobbyists.

### **PROVISION 2: PROHIBIT LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTION BUNDLING**

- Lobbyists may not bundle campaign contributions in connection with an election for city office.

### **PROVISION 3: CLOSE THE REVOLVING DOOR**

- Implement revolving door limitations applicable to City Council members and staff as follows: 5 years for former Members, and 5 years for former staffers who are either (1) paid at a rate of 75% or more of a Member's salary, or (2) whose duties are not primarily secretarial in nature. Such limitations shall apply both before and after the relevant member's term of office.
- Members of City Council shall not hold (or have held) private employment with any lobbyist, company or organization whose profits depend on decisions made by the Council, either during their term or for a period of 5 years before their term.
- During their term, members of the City Council shall recuse themselves from any decisions which may affect the profits of companies or organizations for which they are currently working, or have worked in the prior 5 years.

### **PROVISION 4: PROHIBIT FUNDRAISING DURING WORKING HOURS**

- Members of City Council shall not engage in political fundraising or soliciting while Council is in session and not adjourned or in recess for that entire day, nor during any other hours in which the Council or any committee or subcommittee thereof of which they are a member is conducting business.

## **B. END SECRET MONEY VIA FULL TRANSPARENCY**

### **PROVISION 5: REQUIRE FULL TRANSPARENCY OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING**

- Candidates for City Council shall publicly declare any political expenditures to the same recipient which aggregate to an amount of \$200 or more during an election cycle, and shall similarly publicly declare any political contributions (monetary or in-kind) from the same donor which aggregate to an amount of \$200 or more during an election cycle.
- Candidates for City Council and incumbents shall disclose the identity of any individual or organization who is authorized by or known to them to collect and transmit contributions to their campaign committee or leadership PAC, regardless of whether or not the individual or organization

performs lobbying.

### **C. ELECTORAL REFORM**

#### PROVISION 6: END GERRYMANDERING

- Transfer all authority over redistricting to an independent, fully transparent commission that must follow strict guidelines to ensure accurate representation for all voters, regardless of political party.

#### PROVISION 7: CHANGE HOW ELECTIONS ARE FUNDED

- A fund shall be established, paid for by city taxes, which gives each registered voter a small credit they can use to make a contribution to candidates and PACs which agree to fundraise only from small donors.
- PACs which accept only donations aggregating to an amount of \$100 or less from natural persons may make contributions to candidates ten times larger than the limit on traditional PACs.

#### PROVISION 8: RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- Use the ranked choice voting system in all elections, so voters may rank candidates in order of preference and not be concerned about voting for “spoiler” candidates.

#### PROVISION 9: AUTOMATICALLY REGISTER VOTERS

- Eligible citizens shall be able to register to vote (or update their registration) when they interact with city government agencies – through the DMV, getting a hunting license, applying for food assistance, etc. Citizens can always decline to be registered.

### **D. ENFORCE THE RULES**

#### PROVISION 12: ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE COORDINATION REGULATIONS

- A temporary City Council committee shall immediately be formed to develop definitions as to what constitutes “coordination” between a PAC or lobbyist and a candidate for City Council, and what constitutes a “contribution” to a candidate. Based on these definitions, rules which prohibit such coordination, and/or limit such contributions, shall also be recommended by the committee, and passed as ordinances by the full Council at the next subsequent meeting.

#### PROVISION 13: INCREASE LOBBYING DISCLOSURE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Lobbyists shall be identified as persons or entities which (1) hold two lobbying contacts, provide strategic advice to lobbying efforts, or supervise the provision of strategic advice to lobbying efforts, and (2) spend 12 hours or more during a campaign cycle engaging in lobbying activities.
- Electronic disclosure shall be mandated for all lobbyists, as to specific officials, offices, committees, or subcommittees contacted; all entities (contractors and subcontractors) employed or retained to

engage in lobbying activities, along with description of such lobbying activities; and the identity of each former covered official employed or retained by the registrant who engaged in lobbying activities on behalf of the client, along with description of such lobbying activities.

- Any person or entity failing to come into full compliance with the requirements of this Act within two weeks after being identified by the City Comptroller as noncompliant shall be prohibited from engaging in any activities that would require the person or entity to be a registrant or a lobbyist for a period of 2 years.

#### PROVISION 14: STRENGTHEN INVESTIGATIVE AND PROSECUTORIAL POWERS.

- The City Comptroller's office shall be fully funded and empowered to find that violations of law have occurred and directly impose civil penalties.
- The City Comptroller's office shall be empowered to hold regular public press briefings during the course of any investigation, and be allowed to present to the press any evidence collected so far.