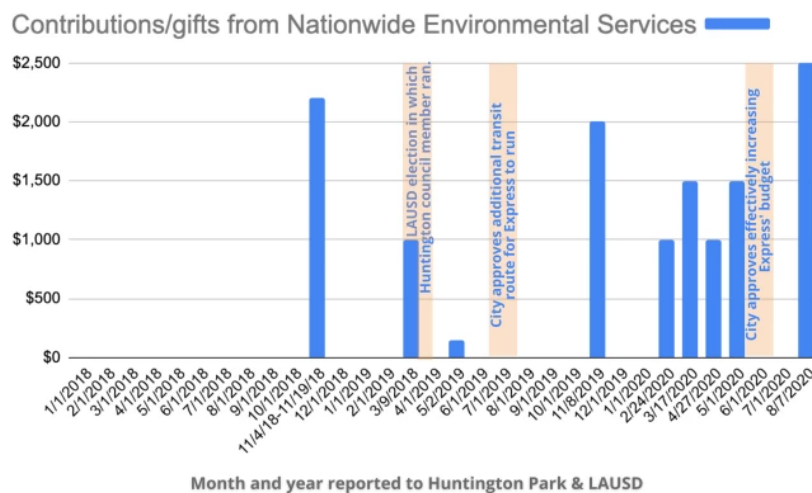


Pay-to-Play Contributions within 12 Months Before or After City Council Votes

Jurisdiction: Huntington Park, CA (2021)

Press Article: [Hefty Contracts for Campaign Contributors in Huntington Park](#)

Summary: The article outlines how city contractors over a three-year period, when they were seeking contracts or contract renewals worth millions of dollars, gave tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to Huntington Park Councilmembers who would vote on those contracts. The article has charts with timelines (see example below), which show contributions coming in before and after the city council voted on contract amendments or renewals for the contributors.



Jurisdiction: San Gabriel, CA (2020)

Press Article: [San Gabriel Councilwoman’s Business Ties and Campaign Funds Raise Questions](#)

Summary: A councilwoman up for re-election in March 2020, accepted a large contribution in Dec. 2019 from the City’s trash and street sweeping contractor who was negotiating contract amendments and renewals with the City, which needed to be voted on by June 2020.

Jurisdiction: Alhambra, CA (2018)

Press Article: [Alhambra Mayor Yet to Donate Promised \\$5,000; Retains Legal Services](#)

Summary: Two Alhambra councilmembers each accepted a \$5,000 campaign contribution in Oct. 2016 from a developer who was seeking approval for a large retail and commercial project in Alhambra. Both members voted to approve the project when it came before them on appeal in February 2017 (about four months after the contributions). The developer was later indicted on federal bribery charges in L.A.

Other Stories that Show Need for Local Pay-To-Play Reform

Jurisdiction: El Monte, CA (2019)

Press Article: [Lawsuits accuse El Monte of ‘pay-to-play’ for cannabis licenses](#)

Summary: The article reports about a pay-to-play scheme where the El Monte City Mayor and Councilmembers allegedly rigged applicant grading criteria to ensure that a cannabis vendor who gave over

\$100,000 in campaign contributions in support of the mayor and two councilmembers received exclusive rights to sell in the City.

Jurisdiction: Inglewood, CA (2015)

Press Article: [Stadium developer has donated \\$100,000 to Inglewood officials' campaigns](#)

Summary: The article documents how the owner of the now-built NFL stadium in Inglewood contributed over \$100,000 in campaign contributions to electeds who supported, and later approved the building of the stadium.

Jurisdiction: Temple City, CA (2009)

Press Article: [3 Temple City figures are indicted in corruption case](#)

Summary: Temple City's mayor was indicted, [and later found guilty](#), "on charges of perjury and soliciting and receiving bribes from a developer in exchange for supporting his \$75-million mall project." Amongst other extortive demands, the developer alleged that the mayor advised him to give thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to the mayor and the council campaigns of her allies.

Jurisdiction: Santa Clara County, CA (2021)

Press Article: ['Unprecedented:' Santa Clara County DA Sounds Off on Grand Jury Corruption Accusations Against Sheriff](#)

Summary: A civil grand jury is investigating alleged corruption in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office, including that the elected sheriff exchanged concealed carry weapons permits (CCWs) for campaign contributions and received unreported gifts over \$500 from CCW applicants.

Instances where councilmembers boast that taking large campaign contributions from city contractors and developers is appropriate because it's not illegal

Jurisdiction: Indio, CA (2018)

Press Article: [Campaign finance: Businesses that contract with city continually donate to Indio council](#)

Summary: Indio Mayor and a City Councilmember defend the practice of accepting tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from city contractors. They each issue the following identical press statement: "*I am very careful to comply with the (California Fair Political Practices Commission)'s rules regarding conflicts of interest, and I am transparent in disclosing my campaign contributions. The Political Reform Act specifically states that campaign contributions are not considered income or a gift to the recipient, do not create conflicts of interest, and elected officials are not required to abstain from decisions that involve their contributors. I follow the law, I disclose contributions I receive as the law requires, and I will abstain when required. Because the law specifically says contributions do not create conflicts [of] interest, it would not require me to abstain in any of the instances you asked about.*"

Jurisdiction: Inglewood, CA (2015)

Press Article: [Conflict of interest or no? Critics point to Hollywood Park NFL stadium developer's contributions to Inglewood mayor's campaign](#)

Summary: Locals accuse the Inglewood Mayor of having a conflict of interest pertaining to a proposed NFL stadium because of the tens of thousands of dollars he accepted in campaign contributions from the would-be developer. In his own defense, the Mayor stated, "Not concerned about any appearance of conflict of interest because there is none... All contributions to my campaigns have been reported in compliance with campaign laws."