



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Cohen  
Vice Mayor Foley

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

Approved:

Date: 8/19/2025

**SUBJECT: MODIFYING SJMC 12.08.030(a) - GIFT LIMITS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Amend San Jose Municipal Code 12.08.030(a) to increase the gift limit \$50 to \$200 from a single source in a calendar year.

**BACKGROUND**

The gift limit of \$50 has been in place since 2004 without increasing. That's why staff brought forward a recommendation in 2024 to increase the gift limit to match with the state level, which is currently \$630. While there would be value in tying to the state and therefore having automatic escalators, the Council did not have the appetite for such a large increase. The gift limit was also recommended to be changed in 2015 by the Mayor's Biannual Ethics Review and Recommendations to better align with the state and reduce the confusion.

The current low gift limit requires council offices to spend taxpayer dollars to attend networking events that are an important part of our jobs. Therefore, we recommend the more modest increase proposed here in order to better align with the cost of ticketed events in the city.