



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Toni J. Taber, MMC
City Clerk

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Amendment to San José Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 - Gift Limits

Recommendation

Adopt an ordinance amending Section 12.08.110 of Chapter 12.08, Title 12 of the San José Municipal Code increasing the City's annual gift limit amount from \$50 to \$200, while maintaining the \$50 annual gift limit amount from lobbyists.

Approval of this item requires 8 or more affirmative votes (two-thirds) (City Charter Section 607).

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organizational and Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment. (Cohen and Foley)
[Council referral 9/9/2025 – Item 2.16 (25-965)]



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Toni J. Taber, MMC
City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toni J. Taber", is placed over the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: August 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Amendment to San José Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 - Gift Limits

Recommendation

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on August 27, 2025, approve an ordinance amending Section 12.08.110 of Chapter 12.08, Title 12 of the San José Municipal Code increasing the City's annual gift limit amount from \$50 to \$200.

Approval of this item requires 8 or more affirmative votes (two-thirds) (City Charter Section 607).

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organizational and Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment. (Cohen and Foley)

[Rules Committee referral 8/27/2025 – Item C.1; citation updated]



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.