


OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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MEMORANDUM

April 26, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Norman Foster, Director 
Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement Re: Proposed Ordinance Pertaining to the Code of Ethics for Elected Officials

Summary

The proposed ordinance would amend the existing Code of Ethics for Elected Officials to permit Elected Officials to solicit funds, goods, and services to assist charitable organizations, nonprofit entities, or individuals in need if the solicitation serves a valid public purpose and there is no quid pro quo. Elected Officials would be permitted to use staff directly assigned to them, email and telephone services, and other resources that do not require the affirmative expenditure of public funds when engaging in such a solicitation. Approval by the Elected Official's governmental entity would be required if a solicitation involves an affirmative expenditure of public funds. Elected Officials would be required to disclose, on a form created by the County Attorney, the name of the intended recipient(s), the cause or event for which the funds or donations were solicited, if any, and the name of any individual or entity that requested the Elected Official engage in the solicitation. This form would be required to be filed within 15 days of the solicitation.

Under the existing ordinance, an Elected Official may solicit funds for nonprofit charitable organizations if there is no quid pro quo. Elected Officials are prohibited from using staff and other resources of the governmental entity for such solicitations.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed ordinance would permit Elected Officials to use staff directly assigned to them, email and telephone services, and other resources that do not require the affirmative expenditure of public funds when engaging in charitable solicitations. Elected Officials would only be permitted to make an affirmative expenditure of public funds for the purpose of a charitable solicitation if approved by the governmental entity. Unless or until the governmental entity approves such an affirmative expenditure, the proposed

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ordinance will have no fiscal impact as only existing staff and other resources could be used for charitable solicitations.

NF:ep