

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, easily accessible public disclosure over the Internet of campaign contributions and expenditures is essential for providing political transparency and ensuring Austinites have public faith in the integrity of our democratic process; and

**WHEREAS**, providing the public with the means to have timely and user-friendly access to download and to search electronically contribution, expenditure, and other campaign data greatly enhances transparency; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring electronic filing (e-filing) of campaign reports in a downloadable, searchable database format is now common in the United States, Texas, and other Texas cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's next municipal elections will occur in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, all candidates, political committees, and makers of independent expenditures have the capacity today to use simple software required to file campaign reports electronically.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to develop an ordinance for Council consideration within 15 days that requires all candidates and office holders, makers of independent expenditures, and political committees (filers) that are involved in influencing City elections to file their reports in an electronic format as directed by the City Clerk that will create a downloadable, searchable database that the public may access easily over the Internet, may download the data, and may make standard queries, such as a sortable list of all contributors to a filer, a sortable list of all contributions by a single person or entity, a sortable list of all expenditures by a filer, and a sortable list of all payments made by all filers to a vendor.

### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Clerk and City Manager are directed to develop and implement a simple, streamlined, cost-effective means for all filers to timely and accurately complete their required reports in an electronic format from which the City can: 1) easily download the data into an electronic, searchable, publicly accessible database; 2) establish standard public search queries and a complete e-filing system on the

City's website; and 3) have this e-filing system thoroughly tested and fully functioning no later than January 1, 2016.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk shall have as their highest priority directing the information technology and other resources so as to implement this E-filing system effectively, fully, and timely.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager and City Clerk shall develop and draft an e-filing technology implementation plan within 30 days of this ordinance's passage, which plan can be phased and shall be presented and discussed at a public meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee, and progress reports will be made monthly thereafter to the Audit and Finance Committee to ensure the e-filing system is implemented timely and completely.

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**ADOPTED: , 2015 ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall

City Clerk