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Money train skips The City's November election

By: [Joshua Sabatini](#)
Examiner Staff Writer
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The clock is ticking down to the November elections and so far money is merely trickling in for the ballot measures.

The lack of fundraising is not surprising for the Nov. 3 election, where two incumbents are running unopposed and the five ballot measures are not controversial blockbusters.

There are several political committees formed to campaign for or against at least three of the ballot measures, but only one committee had raised donations as of Sept. 19, according to campaign contribution filings that were due at the Ethics Commission on Thursday.

The committee supporting the Mid-Market Arts Revitalization Sign District measure raised \$150,200 during the reporting period, July 2 to Sept. 19. All the money was contributed by Warfield Theater LLC, except for a \$100 contribution from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and a \$100 contribution from the Market Street Association. Since January, the committee has raised a total of \$190,225.

If approved by voters, the measure would create a district on and near Market Street between Fifth and Seventh streets, which includes the Warfield Theater, to allow for new general advertising signs in the area. Property owners who benefit from the new advertising revenue would have to contribute up to 40 percent of the money to a special fund for the arts.

Local political analyst David Latterman was not surprised by the overall lack of fundraising. The ballot measures are generally "under the radar," incumbents are unchallenged and the election falls in "just one of those off years," he said.

The two unchallenged candidates each raised a little more than \$10,000 during the most recent reporting period, also July 2 to Sept. 19.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who is running unopposed for re-election, raised \$13,275 for a total of

\$367,343 since January. He has spent most of it, reporting about \$60,000 left. Treasurer Jose Cisneros, who's also running for re-election and is also running unopposed, raised \$12,889 during the reporting period for a total of \$81,827 since January.

jsabatini@sfexaminer.com

San Franciscans, get ready to head to the polls

Measures and candidates for city office on the Nov. 3 ballot, a local election:

Measures

- **Advertisements on city property:** Would prohibit increasing advertising signs on street furniture beyond the existing amount as of January 2008 and on city-owned buildings beyond the existing amount as of March 2002
- **Mid-Market special sign district:** Would allow for increased advertising signs for arts and entertainment along Market Street between Fifth and Seventh streets, with ad revenue going toward revitalizing the area
- **Candlestick Park naming rights:** Would allow the sale of naming rights to the stadium where the 49ers play, with at least half the revenue to pay for recreation center directors

Charter amendments

- **Budget process** Would create a two-year budgetary cycle, adopt a five-year financial plan and impose a deadline of May 15 for submission of labor contracts for miscellaneous and public safety employees to the Board of Supervisors; billed as budget "reform"
- **Board of Supervisors aides** Would eliminate a set number of legislative aides per supervisor, allowing for more than two

Candidates races


City attorney — Incumbent Dennis Herrera running unopposed

Treasurer — Incumbent Jose Cisneros running unopposed

Source: Department of Elections

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