

The Village • 1 hr ago

Laguna Beach 496 Independent Expenditures (Most Recent)

	Candidate	Indep Expenditure	Thru Date	Support/ Oppose
Village Laguna 496				
	Flores	\$7,286.00	10/22/20	Support
	Weiss	\$8,638.00	10/22/20	Support
Liberate Laguna 496				
	Dicterow	\$15,254.24	10/21/20	Oppose
	Weiss	\$5,776.35	10/15/20	Oppose
	Nokes	\$33,684.13	10/27/20	Support
LB Police Emp Assoc 496				
	Dicterow	\$9,104.62	10/27/20	Support
	Whalen	\$5,608.17	10/13/20	Support

*Liberate Laguna spent an estimated \$24,922 promoting Blake and \$24,222 promoting Kempf in the 2018 election. So they've spent approx 35% more promoting Nokes this cycle

Laguna Beach 460 Reports

	\$\$ Raised	\$\$ Spent
Village Laguna 496		
	\$19,776.00	\$13,015.00
Liberate Laguna 496		
	\$88,463.00	\$99,070.00

PAC Spending via Independent Expenditures (496) in LB City Council Race (last). This is likely the last report before the closing of the 2020 General Election. As I've provided throughout, this post details the IE's spent by the biggest PACs in Laguna Beach, to influence the election.

If you look at Figure 1, what stands out is that the Pro-developer PAC, Liberate Laguna has now spent \$33,684.13 in support of Larry Nokes (I believe the amount is higher, due to LL's "slow walking" their reports and the way they treat certain expenditures, with which I disagree). What's notable is that the reported \$33,684.13 spent on behalf of Nokes is about 35% higher than Liberate Laguna spent to help elect Blake (2018 spending at \$24,922 by my estimates) and Kempf (2018 spending at \$24, 222 by my estimates). Its also notable that they've seen fit to spend \$15,254 to OPPOSE Dicterow's candidacy. That's less than the reported \$17,218 they spent in 2018 opposing Iseman (my estimate \$23,132), and \$6,751 opposing Christoph (my estimate \$8,722). The amounts spent supporting candidates Flores and Weiss by the PAC Village Laguna are historically unremarkable.

If we look to Figure 2, the tale of "money politics" becomes even more apparent, when we see that the Pro-Developer PAC, Liberate Laguna has spent almost \$100,000 in this election cycle (in 2018, it was \$153,000, but there were 3 open seats, so the average amount spent per seat is about the same), while collecting \$88,463. The amount raised is 4x's that of VL, and the amount spent is 7.5x's that of VL. All of the figures are gleaned from the LB City website: (under Government/City Government/City Clerk/Election 2020/Disclosure Statements).

Notable too: Laguna Residents First has spent \$0 to promote or oppose candidates or initiatives during the 2020 cycle; contrary to what the pro-development FUD throwers have been claiming on ND for the past several months.

How the donations break down:

Again, the story with pro-development PAC Liberate Laguna is a virtual replay of 2018. Their money comes from 3 main donors (again):

* Michael Ray - \$43,000 (2018 reported amount was \$22,000)

* Sam Goldstein - \$28,000 (2018 reported amount was \$20,000)

* X Shopoff - \$9,500 (2018 reported amount was \$8,500

monetary and \$30,000 non-monetary, along with Shopoff Enterprises with a \$30K non-monetary contribution).

Village Laguna - Their biggest donations were in the amount of \$1,000 from each of 3 donors.

Final Note: It appears that candidate Whalen has tried to distance himself from "independent expenditures" from LL (can anyone comment?). If so, this is a laudable position. However, LL have included Whalen's picture & name in several of their mailers, but it appears that they have included the monies spent, as "Nokes" expenditures. Since LL have the money to hire the best FPPC consultants, this is probably an acceptable treatment of expenditures.