

## **IS SOMEONE TRYING TO BUY PALO ALTO CITY HALL?**

Never in the history of Palo Alto City Council elections have we seen a few individuals contribute campaign money on such a massive level. Five wealthy families have donated \$158,800 to two PASZ slate candidates running for City Council—Lydia Kou and Arthur Keller-- and to PASZ, a no growth political action committee (PAC), which is supporting the Kou and Keller campaigns.

Not only are these contributions shocking and deeply troubling, but checks for \$5,000 or more are unprecedented in our City Council elections! In the past, individual donations rarely exceeded \$500, and for good reason—candidates did not want the appearance of undue influence from big donors.

### **Now, what a change!**

What is this group up to? What do they want? Are they trying to buy something? We're not sure, but it certainly sets a tone that many, if not most, of us don't want in our town.

The wealthy donor contributions reported through 10/14 total to Kou, Keller and PASZ are as follows:

• Michael and Paula Rantz	\$30,200
• Gabrielle and Thomas Layton	\$33,600
• Simone and Trench Coxe	\$31,700
• Asher Waldfolgel/ Helyn MacLean	\$31,500
• Mary Ann and Leonard Baker	\$31,800
• TOTAL	\$158,800

As former Palo Alto Mayors over the years, we are deeply concerned about the unprecedented role that large contributions are playing in this year's election at the last minute.

No one knows how these funds will be used, if attacks and negative campaign tactics are coming, or just possible new City Council Members who will be beholden to big money.

Regardless of who wins on election day, Palo Alto deserves better than an apparent attempt to buy City Hall. We urge you to inform yourself and reject big money influence.