

Today's Lead: Liu Denied Matching Funds

Posted on Aug 06, Posted by [Mike Muller](#) Category [The Eye-Opener](#)

Yesterday the Campaign Finance Board denied \$3.5 million in matching funds for John Liu's mayoral campaign, citing evidence of pervasive violations of campaign finance laws. It is largest penalty in the [history](#) of the program. Liu's lawyer called it a "death penalty." The campaign has already spent hundreds of thousands on legal fees and only has \$1.5 million left. Liu argued that the irregularities were due to the [make up of his donors](#), who are "overwhelmingly immigrant and first-time donors to any campaign." But a probe by the firm Thacher Associates found [straw donors](#) and other problems with the campaign's fundraising.

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