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Cover image courtesy of
Redding Convention and Visitor Bureau
INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Manual

California’s Political Reform Act (the “Act”) requires receipts and expenditures in election campaigns to be disclosed fully and truthfully. During the last 10 years, California has experienced huge growth in the amount of independent expenditures made at both the state and local levels. Typically, independent expenditures increase when contribution limits encourage campaign spending by persons who are neither candidates nor political parties. Clear and accurate disclosure is key to making voters aware of who is paying for political messages so they can evaluate the content and make informed decisions at the ballot box.

In California, the true source of an independent expenditure has to be disclosed and cannot be hidden. Strict rules are in place for multi-purpose organizations and non-profits (including 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations) that make political expenditures to ensure that accurate information is disclosed on campaign reports and in political communications such as television ads and electronic messages. Since 1974, there have been over 200 amendments to the Act’s campaign disclosure provisions. This manual has been prepared to assist independent expenditure committees to comply with the Act’s numerous and often detailed rules. This manual is written in a “user friendly” format so that committees have a resource guide. Also provided is a list of statutes and regulations at the end of each chapter. These can be accessed on the FPPC website.

In addition, federal and state tax laws and other rules may be applicable. Telephone numbers and website addresses for the Federal Election Commission, Internal Revenue Service, California Franchise Tax Board, and the Federal Communications Commission are listed in the Appendix.
Controlling Law

This manual summarizes key campaign disclosure laws and regulations and draws from years of FPPC staff advice on complying with the provisions of the Act’s campaign disclosure laws. Each committee’s activity is different, however, and may raise issues not discussed in this manual. If there are any discrepancies between the manual and the Act or its corresponding regulations, the Act and its regulations will control.

Need Help?

If you need assistance, the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) provides advice by email and by a toll-free telephone advice line. The FPPC does not provide third party advice or advice on past conduct. In addition, the FPPC website (www.fppc.ca.gov) contains forms, manuals, and a wealth of other helpful information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email Advice</th>
<th>Telephone Advice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov">advice@fppc.ca.gov</a></td>
<td>1-866-ASK FPPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1-866-275-3772)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t forget these rules…

• Each independent expenditure of $1,000 or more on behalf of a candidate or ballot measure triggers the filing of Form 462, Form 465 and Form 461. Form 496 is required 90 days before an election.

• Filing locations for Form 465 and Form 496 are sometimes different than where the independent expenditure committee files the Form 461.
Key Revisions Since 2008

Independent Expenditures:

**New Verification Requirements:** A principal officer must sign a verification form (Form 462) and email it to the FPPC stating that a communication reported as an independent expenditure meets the legal standards and there has been no reimbursement.

**Cumulative Totals:** The cumulative-to-date total spent on independent expenditures relating to a candidate or measure must be reported on the Form 496.

**24-Hour Reporting:** All state and local committees must file reports within 24 hours for independent expenditures and contributions of $1,000 or more made in the 90 days prior to an election.

**Campaign Statement Filing Location:** Provisions in Regulation 18227.5 make it easier to determine if a committee should file as a state, county or city committee. The revised rules make campaign finance data easier to access and timelier as more committees will file online with the Secretary of State.

**Electronic Filing Threshold Reduced to $25,000:** The electronic filing threshold for state committees filing with the Secretary of State was reduced from $50,000 to $25,000.

**Electronic Media Disclosure Requirements:** All mass mailings and certain campaign ads must state “paid for by” adjacent to the name of the committee. This identification is also required on more than 200 substantially similar electronic messages sent to the public within a calendar month.
“Express Advocacy” Definition Update: Communications that advocate support or opposition of a clearly identified candidate or ballot measure contain “express advocacy” in certain circumstances. The definition of “express advocacy” in Regulation 18225 was amended to include communications made within 60 days prior to the candidate’s or ballot measure’s election when, taken as a whole, unambiguously urge a particular result in an election. (See Chapter 1 for more information.)

Local Electronic Filing Provisions: Some local jurisdictions may require campaign forms to be filed electronically. Contact the local jurisdiction for information on whether there is an e-filing requirement.

Reporting Rules Related to the Following Subject Areas:

- Local Agency Formation Commission payments
- State and local agencies making payments for campaign related communications
- Multi-purpose organizations
A. What is an Independent Expenditure Committee?

An independent expenditure committee is an individual or entity (e.g., corporation, firm, business, or proprietorship) that makes one or more independent expenditures to pay for a communication (i.e. mailing, lawn signs, newspaper ads) totaling $1,000 or more in a calendar year that is not coordinated with the affected candidate or committee. Section C reviews when a multi-purpose organization may qualify as an independent expenditure committee.

What is an Independent Expenditure?

An “independent expenditure” is a payment for a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified California state or local candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a clearly identified state or local ballot measure, and the communication is not coordinated with or “made at the behest” of the affected candidate or committee. The following information provides an overview of how to determine if the three factors are met for a communication to be considered an independent expenditure. Whether a communication does in fact expressly advocate a clearly identified candidate or measure will always depend upon the words and message. The FPPC can offer guidance if a sample communication is provided.

Express Advocacy

A communication expressly advocates support or opposition of a clearly identified candidate or ballot measure under the following scenarios:

- The communication uses words such as “vote for,” "elect," “cast your ballot,” or “defeat.”
- The communication is made within 60 days prior to an election and the communication refers to a clearly identified candidate or
An expenditure is not considered independent of a candidate or committee if:

- It is made at the request, suggestion, or direction of, or in cooperation, consultation, or coordination with the candidate or committee for whose benefit the expenditure is made.

- The candidate or committee or their agents have made or participated in making any decision about the content, timing, and nature of the expenditure.

A communication does not expressly advocate if it does not mention an election, candidacy, or the merits of a measure and it focuses on a legislative, executive or judicial matter. An example may be “Thank you Supervisor Smith for continuing to support our farmers.”

Clearly Identifies

A communication clearly identifies a candidate or measure when the candidate’s name, photograph, or status as a candidate or officeholder is used, or the measure’s name, popular title, or official title is used. Some flyers may mention a group of candidates by some well-defined characteristic of the group. Even if no specific names are used, these, too, may be communications which clearly identify candidates.

Is the Expenditure Independent or Coordinated with the Campaign?

An independent expenditure committee must be aware that the communication cannot be coordinated with the affected candidate or measure committee. If there is coordination, the payments are reported as contributions, and, among other items, may be subject to contribution limits.

An expenditure is not considered independent of a candidate or committee if:

1. The candidate or committee or their agents have made or participated in making any decision about the content, timing, and nature of the expenditure.

Ex 1.1 - In May, Sandra Farmer paid $4,000 for a mailing that included the statement “Vote No on Measure A.” Sandra, acting on her own, paid for the mailing with her personal funds and qualified as an independent expenditure committee.

In October, MBI Development Corporation paid for a series of automated telephone calls to voters in Southern California that said “Vote for Smith for Governor.” The corporation, acting independently of the candidate’s committee, paid $12,000 for the calls. The corporation qualified as an independent expenditure committee.

Ex 1.2 - Several individuals contributed funds, exceeding $1,000, to a political consultant to develop newspaper ads that will state Vote Yes on Measure C. In this example, the ad may be an independent expenditure but because the individuals pooled their funds for the communication, the group qualified as a recipient committee, as a primarily formed ballot measure committee, to oppose the measure. In these circumstances, use Manual 3 for campaign filing requirements and not this manual.
location, mode, intended audience, distribution, or placement of the communication.

- The creator, producer, or the person paying for the communication has had discussion and agreement with the candidate or committee, or their agents, regarding the content, timing, location, mode, intended audience, distribution, or placement of the communication.

An expenditure is presumed to be coordinated or “made at the behest of” a candidate or committee if:

- **Committee’s Needs.** It is based on information about the candidate’s or committee’s campaign needs or plans provided to the expending person by the candidate or committee.

- **Agent.** It is made by or through any agent of the candidate or committee in the course of the agent’s involvement in the current campaign.

- **Common Consultants.** The person making the expenditure retains the services of a person who provides the candidate with professional services related to campaign or fundraising strategy for that same election.

- **Republication.** The communication reproduces, republishes, or disseminates a communication designed, produced, paid for, or distributed by the candidate or committee.

**Coordination Results in Contribution**

When a communication expressly advocates a clearly identified candidate or measure and the communication is coordinated with or “made at the behest of” the candidate or committee, the communication will qualify as a contribution.

However, an expenditure will not be considered a contribution to a candidate merely because:

- The person making the expenditure interviews the candidate on issues affecting the person making the expenditure.
• The person making the expenditure has obtained a photograph, biography, position paper, press release, or similar material from the candidate or the candidate’s agents.

• The person making the expenditure has invited the candidate or committee to make an appearance before the person’s members, employees, shareholders, or the families thereof, provided that there is no discussion with the candidate or committee prior to the expenditure related to details of the expenditure.

FPPC Regulations 18225.7 and 18550.1, summarized above, specify when a communication is considered independent or made at the behest of a candidate or committee. Because the determination is based on specific facts, persons may contact the FPPC for guidance.

B. Affiliated and Non-Affiliated Committees

There are certain situations when payments made by two or more persons are aggregated and the persons are treated as a single committee for reporting purposes.

Under the Act, the term “person” includes an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, limited liability company, committee, and association.

Affiliated individuals and entities will qualify as a single independent expenditure committee, if, together, their independent expenditures total $1,000 or more, in a calendar year.

The following payments are aggregated:

• Contributions or independent expenditures made from an individual’s personal funds and from funds he or she directs and controls.

Ex 1.3 – In May, Ellen Gomez attended a fundraiser for a candidate and used her personal funds to pay for the $500 ticket. In June, she made a $3,000 independent expenditure from her wholly owned business to oppose a ballot measure and qualified as an independent expenditure committee. Because Ms. Gomez directed and controlled all of the payments, she and her business qualify as a single committee and must disclose her personal contributions as well as the independent expenditures made from her business.
• Contributions or independent expenditures made by two or more entities that are directed and controlled by a majority of the same persons.

• Contributions or independent expenditures made by entities that are majority owned by any person. Contributions and independent expenditures made by the majority owner and all other entities majority owned by that person are aggregated unless the entities act independently in their decisions to make contributions or independent expenditures.

The examples provide general guidance. Every case is unique and we encourage you to contact the FPPC for advice.

C. Multi-purpose Organizations

Some organizations (including nonprofit organizations, and federal and out-of-state political action committees) that receive donations or other payments (e.g., membership dues) for purposes other than making political expenditures in California nevertheless do, at times, make political expenditures to support or oppose California state or local candidates or ballot measures. These organizations may be subject to filing campaign statements in California, and the true sources of the independent expenditures must be fully and truthfully disclosed.

A multi-purpose organization may become an independent expenditure committee if it makes independent expenditures totaling $1,000 or more in a calendar year to influence a state or local election and the organization has not made expenditures or contributions totaling at least $1,000 in the current and past four years and the organization’s donors had no reason to know that their payments would be used for political purposes in California.

If, within four calendar years, the multi-purpose organization makes another independent expenditure or a contribution of $1,000 or more, to another candidate or committee the organization will often qualify as a recipient committee unless it meets the requirements in FPPC Regulation 18413 which provides a simplified reporting procedure for

Ex 1.4 – Pace Computers contributed a total of $9,000 to support various legislative candidates. Under the direction of Pace Computers, Global Software, Inc., a company in which Pace Computers has a greater than 50 percent ownership interest, made an independent expenditure of $7,000 to support a local candidate. Because Global Software, Inc. did not act independently, the companies qualify as a single committee and will file a single Form 461 listing both contributions and independent expenditures.

Ex 1.5 – Southwest Telecom has a greater than 50 percent ownership interest in American Telecom. Each entity, entirely on its own and with separate decision-making bodies, made independent expenditures of $1,000 or more. Southwest Telecom made an independent expenditure in connection with a state ballot measure, while American Telecom made independent expenditures in connection with a local ballot measure. Because Southwest Telecom and American Telecom acted completely independently in their decisions, a Form 461 would be filed separately by each company listing only that company’s expenditures.
multi-purpose organizations that only occasionally make independent expenditures in connection with a ballot measure.

The FPPC adopted Regulations 18412 and 18413 to help multi-purpose organizations determine their disclosure obligations. Disclosure ensures that California voters have information related to the source of funds that a multi-purpose organization uses for political ads or contributions.

Exception: A 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) multi-purpose organization that only makes occasional independent expenditures to support or oppose ballot measures may use a simplified reporting method even if more than one independent expenditure is made from the organization's general treasury. The organization must meet the following factors:

- Received either a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) tax exempt status from the IRS
- Received a tax-exempt determination from the California Franchise Tax Board, if incorporated in California, or received similar tax exempt status from the state of domicile, if incorporated in another state
- Independent expenditures were made from the entity's general treasury
- Made independent expenditures of less than $500,000 to support or oppose four or fewer state ballot measures
- Made independent expenditures of less than $50,000 to support or oppose one or more local ballot measures

Unlike other multi-purpose organizations, if an entity meets the factors described above, the organization will not need to file reports as a recipient committee even if it makes more than one independent expenditure from a general treasury that receives funds from individuals or business entities. See Chapter 4 for reporting.

Ex 1.6 – A multi-purpose organization provides a variety of services to its members, including insurance services that result in income to the organization. The organization makes political expenditures solely from the income producing funds. Therefore, the organization does not qualify as a recipient committee. The organization is required to file reports as an “independent expenditure” committee if it makes, in a single calendar year, $1,000 or more in independent expenditures.

Ex 1.7 – The Golden Rule Association provides education services and receives its funds exclusively from teachers who make one annual payment of $200. The payment date varies as it is determined by the date the teacher initially joined the Association. The Association made an independent expenditure of $30,000 to oppose a ballot measure committee. This independent expenditure was the first political payment made from the general treasury and must be reported as described in this manual. If later that year, the Association made a second political payment of $5,000 to a candidate it will at that point qualify as a recipient committee and must file a Statement of Organization (Form 410) and other recipient committee campaign reports.
D. Other Types of Payments

An entity that makes independent expenditures in California should be aware of the following types of payments that are addressed in the Political Reform Act.

Internet Activity – Uncompensated Individuals. When an individual or group of individuals send communications that expressly advocate a candidate or measure conducted over or related to the Internet, such as emails, social networking, blogging, website postings, and hyperlinks, this is not reportable activity so long as the individual sending the communication is uncompensated.

Electioneering Communications Identifying State Candidates (No Express Advocacy)

An individual or business entity that makes a payment or promise of payment totaling $50,000 or more for a communication that 1) clearly identifies a state candidate; but 2) does not expressly advocate the election or defeat of the candidate; and 3) is disseminated, broadcast, or otherwise published within 45 days of the candidate’s election, is required to file Form E-530. (See Chapter 3.)

Member Communications

Payments made by an entity (including a business entity) for a communication that supports or opposes a candidate or ballot measure are not contributions or independent expenditures as long as the communication is sent only to the organization’s members, employees, shareholders, or their families. The payments may not be for general public advertising, such as billboards, newspaper, radio, or television ads.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Proposals

Payments made in connection with Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) proposals may be reportable independent expenditures. These questions are very fact specific, so contact the FPPC for guidance.

Ex 1.8 – If a candidate’s neighbor sends emails to his family and friends and posts on his personal social networking site communications supporting the campaign, the communications are not reportable even though the candidate may have provided the neighbor with campaign materials.

Ex 1.9 – A corporation sends a mailing supporting a ballot measure to the corporation’s shareholders. The mailing is not a contribution to the ballot measure committee whose position is supported and is also not considered an independent expenditure. The mailing does not trigger disclosure reports.
CalPERS/CalSTRS Candidates

An individual or business entity that makes independent expenditures of $1,000 or more in a calendar year to support or oppose candidates seeking certain offices for the California Public Employees’ Retirement System or the California Teachers’ Retirement System will qualify as an independent expenditure committee.

Government Agency Communications

A state or local agency making payments for campaign activities may become a committee subject to reporting if the payments qualify as contributions or independent expenditures.

Governmental agencies must refer to FPPC Regulation 18420.1 for rules in determining when a payment for a communication is a contribution or independent expenditure. The rules are different than those provided for non-governmental entities. For example, the factors a governmental entity will use to determine if a communication unambiguously urges a particular result in an election include either of the following: 1) The agency prepared campaign material such as bumper stickers or television or radio spots; 2) The style, tenor and timing of the communication can be reasonably characterized as campaign material and is not a fair presentation of facts serving only an informational purpose.

Agencies should refer to FPPC Regulation 18420.1 if there is a question as to whether a communication is considered a campaign communication as the determination will always be based upon the words used in the particular communication. Note: Laws outside the Act generally prohibit the use of public moneys for campaign activities by a governmental agency.

Payments for Governmental, Legislative, or Charitable Purposes

Behested payments. This term refers to payments made by a person for a governmental, legislative, or charitable organization, such as a job or health fair, a charity fundraiser, or a conference on educational issues, when the payment was coordinated or requested by an elected
official. This includes payments behested by the official or by his or her agent or employee on the official’s behalf.

The source of the behested payment is not required to file a FPPC report. However, the official must disclose the payments on Form 803 if they total $5,000 or more in a calendar year. The FPPC website posts payments made at the behest of state elected officials and members of the Public utilities Commission.

**Answering Your Questions**

**A. Can corporations make independent expenditures in California?**

Yes. The Act does not ban independent expenditures by corporations. There are restrictions for foreign corporations. See Government Code Section 85320.

**B. Can a candidate or officeholder make independent expenditures out of personal funds to support or oppose other candidates?**

Yes. However, a candidate or officeholder may not make independent expenditures from campaign funds to support or oppose other candidates or contribute campaign funds to other committees for independent expenditures.

**C. A property development company has offered to pay the costs of placing an advisory measure on the ballot concerning a new city residential development. The company is not coordinating the expenditures with any other committee. Will the company incur any reporting obligations?**

Yes. Payments of $1,000 or more made to the city to defray the costs of an election are reportable independent expenditures if they are not coordinated with other committees.

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Ex 1.10 – At Councilmember Stark’s request, Diamond Dairy made a $10,000 donation to the Boy’s and Girl’s Club. Councilmember Stark will file a Form 803 with the city clerk disclosing the donation and donor’s name and address. Diamond Dairy is not required to report the payment.
D. A multi-purpose organization will use its income producing funds that are help in its general treasury to make a series of independent expenditures ("IEs") in connection with a candidate election. Is a separate bank account required?

No. However, the organization must fully pay the IEs from the income producing funds. The organization must provide clear and concise records.
E. Authority

The following Government Code Sections and Title 2 Regulations provide authority for the information in this chapter:

**Government Code Sections**

- 82013 Committee.
- 82015 Contribution.
- 82031 Independent Expenditure.
- 85310 Communications Identifying State Candidates.
- 85312 Communications to Members of an Organization.
- 85501 Prohibition on Independent Expenditures by Candidate Controlled Committees.

**Title 2 Regulations**

- 18215 Contribution.
- 18215.2 Uncompensated Internet Activity by Individuals that is not a Contribution or Expenditure.
- 18225 Expenditure.
- 18225.4 Independent Expenditures; When Aggregated.
- 18225.7 Made at the Behest of.
- 18412 Identifying Funding Sources for Contributions and Independent Expenditures Made by Certain Tax Exempt Organizations.
- 18413 Reporting Independent Expenditures by Eligible 501(c)(3)/501(c)(4) Organizations.
- 18420 Reporting of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures of State or Local Government Agencies.
- 18420.1 Payments by State or Local Agencies for a Campaign Related Communication.
- 18531.7 Payments for Communications—Section 85312.
- 18531.10 Communications Identifying State Candidates.
- 18550.1 Independent and Coordinated Expenditures.
CHAPTER 2

ADVERTISEMENT DISCLAIMERS

Those making independent expenditures must put notices on mass mailings and advertisements. Information about who paid for the communication is required on mailers, billboards, and emails, as well as television, radio, or Internet ads. The FPPC has adopted specific rules for ensuring that the public can determine the source of a political mail piece or advertisement. Disclaimer requirements vary depending upon the medium.

A. Mass Mailings – Postal Mailings and Emails

When an independent expenditure committee pays for a mailing of more than 200 similar pieces in a calendar month ("mass mailing"), the mailing is subject to identification requirements. Mass mailings include more than 200 substantially similar electronic messages sent to the public within a calendar month. All mass mailings must include the words “Paid for by” immediately adjacent to or above identification of the name of the independent expenditure committee. The committee’s address is also required on mailings.

Paid for by ABC Company
123 Elm Street
Elmton, CA 95523

Fred Smith
7200 Oak St
Oakville, CA 92253

From: ABCCompany@emailaddress.web
To: Voter@emailaddress.web
Cc: 
Subject: Vote for Smith for Senate

The following message is paid for by ABC Company, 123 Elm Street,
Elmton, CA 95223

Identify the legal name of the entity or individual who is paying for a mass mailing or other advertisement. For example, if ABC Development Company qualifies as an independent expenditure committee and pays for a mass mailing or other advertisement, ABC Development Company is the name that must be identified.
B. Advertisement Disclaimers

Independent expenditures for advertisements or mass mailings (including emails) and which support or oppose either candidates or ballot measures, must identify the committee making the independent expenditure and must be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner to give the reader or listener adequate notice of the identity of the committee. Broadcast information also must be appropriately conveyed to the hearing impaired.

The advertising disclosure rules for independent expenditures supporting or opposing candidates and ballot measure are illustrated in the charts below.

### Political Advertising Disclaimers

#### 2. Independent Expenditure Ads on Candidates

» General purpose committees provide a disclaimer that must include, unless otherwise noted:

“Paid for by committee name” and “Not authorized by the candidate or a committee controlled by the candidate”

Examples:

- “This call was paid for by ABC Trade Association and was not authorized by Senator Jones”
- “This ad was paid for by Susan Johnson and was not authorized by Friends of Mayor Smith for 2014”

The following disclaimers apply to ads that expressly advocate support or opposition of a candidate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>Manner of Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| All mass mailings (more than 200) (see note) | • Committee name/address (on file with Forms 410 or 461) on mailer in no less than 10 pt type/contrasting print color  
• An insert in the mailing must also state that the ad was not authorized by the candidate or a committee controlled by the candidate |
| Telephone calls (more than 200) - made by vendors (“robo” calls) or paid individuals | • Disclaimer must state that the call is “paid for by” committee name  
• Must be at least 3 seconds either at the beginning or end of the call |
| Radio | • Must be at least 3 seconds either at beginning or end of the ad |
| Television | • Both written & spoken at the beginning or end of ad  
• Not less than 4 seconds  
• Size & contrasting color must be legible to average viewer  
• Exception - no spoken disclosure required if written statement is shown for at least 5 seconds on a 30 second broadcast or 10 seconds on 60 second broadcast |
## Independent Expenditures - Candidate Ads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electronic Media</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Websites and blast emails</em></td>
<td>1. Disclaimer statement must be in the same font size as majority of text and displayed conspicuously near the ad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>Ads of limited size</em> (micro bar, button ad, ads limited to 500 characters or less)</td>
<td>2. Ad must provide disclaimer via rollover, link, or other connection to website with the disclaimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>SMS texts</em></td>
<td>3. Include the committee ID number and if technically possible link to the committee's campaign statement on Secretary of State's website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <em>Electronic ads sent in an audio format</em></td>
<td>4. Same requirements as for radio ads above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <em>Electronic ads sent in a video format</em></td>
<td>5. Same requirements as for television ads above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newspaper ads</strong></td>
<td>• 10 pt type in contrasting color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Also check the Elections Code</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Billboards and yard signs (more than 200)</strong></td>
<td>• 5% of height of advertisement in contrasting color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Door hangers, flyers, posters, and oversized campaign buttons and bumper stickers</strong> (buttons 10” across or larger and stickers 60 sq inches or larger) (all more than 200)</td>
<td>• 10 pt type in contrasting color</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Two display rules exist for mass mailings. A mass mailing must have the committee name/address on the outside of an envelope in 6 pt type; while the manner of display for the ad disclaimer requires the committee name in no less than 10 pt type. Often a one-page mailer combines the display rules with both the committee name and address in no less than 10 pt type although the address may be at 6 pt type.
Political Advertising Disclaimers

4. Independent Expenditure Ads on Ballot Measures
(by general purpose recipient committees, major donors, and independent expenditure committees)

The disclaimer must include, unless otherwise noted: “Paid for by committee name”

Examples:
- “This call was paid for by ABC Trade Association”
- “This ad was paid for by Susan Johnson”

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<tr>
<td>All mass mailings (more than 200) (see note)</td>
<td>Committee name/address (on file with Forms 410 or 461) on mailer in no less than 10 pt type/contrasting color</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Telephone calls (more than 200) - made by vendors (“robo” calls) or paid individuals | Disclaimer must state the call is “paid for by” committee name  
Must be at least 3 seconds at beginning or end of call  
Must be at least 3 seconds either at beginning or end of the ad |
| Radio                          | Must be at least 3 seconds either at beginning or end of the ad                  |
| Television                     | Both written & spoken at the beginning or end of ad  
Not less than 4 seconds  
Size & contrasting color must be legible to the average viewer  
Exception - no spoken disclosure required if written statement is shown for at least 5 seconds on a 30 second broadcast or 10 seconds on 60 second broadcast |
### Independent Expenditures - Ballot Measures Ads

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<td>3. Include the committee ID number and if technically possible link to the committee's campaign statement on Secretary of State's website</td>
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<td>5. Electronic ads sent in a video format</td>
<td>5. Same requirements as for television ads above</td>
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</table>

| Paid spokesperson - $5,000 or more                  | • Printed or televised ad: shown continuously in highly visible roman font          |
|                                                   | • Radio broadcast or phone message: spoken in clearly audible format               |
|                                                   | • Both must also include: "spokesperson’s name is being paid by this campaign or its donors" |

| Newspaper ads                                      | • 10 pt type in contrasting color                                                   |
|                                                   | • Also check the Elections Code                                                     |

| Billboards and yard signs (more than 200)          | • 5% of height of ad in contrasting color                                           |

| Door hangers, flyers, posters, and oversized campaign buttons and bumper stickers (buttons 10” across or larger and stickers 60 sq. in. or larger) (more than 200) | • 10 pt type in contrasting color |

**Note:** Two display rules exist for mass mailings. A mass mailing must have the committee name/address on the outside of an envelope in 6 pt type; while the manner of display for the ad disclaimer requires the committee name in no less than 10 pt type. Often a one-page mailer combines the display rules with both the committee name and address in no less than 10 pt type although the address may be at 6 pt type.
**Not Authorized by Candidate**

An advertisement supporting or opposing a candidate that is paid for by an independent expenditure must include a statement that it was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.

**Telephone Calls**

When an independent expenditure committee pays for 500 or more similar telephone calls that expressly advocate support for or opposition to a candidate or ballot measure, the name of the independent expenditure committee must be disclosed to recipients. The disclosure must include the words “paid for by” or “authorized by.”

**Ballot Measure Ad Spokespersons**

When an independent expenditure committee makes an expenditure of $5,000 or more to an individual for his or her appearance in an advertisement to support or oppose a ballot measure, the advertisement must include a statement that the individual is being paid for his or her appearance. The statement must be in highly visible roman font, shown continuously if the advertisement consists of printed or televised materials, or spoken in a clearly audible format if the advertisement is a radio broadcast or telephone message.

In addition, the committee must file the Paid Spokesperson Report, Form 511, as described in Chapter 3.

**Updating a disclaimer**

In the event an advertisement disclaimer must be revised due to a name change, television, radio, electronic media, or robocalls must be amended within five calendar days. Print media, mass mailings, or other tangible items must be amended every time an order to reproduce is placed.
Advertisements in Languages Other than English

Disclaimers on political advertisements should be written or spoken in the same language used in the advertisement.

Advertisement Disclaimer Exceptions

A disclaimer is not required on regular-size campaign buttons, pins, bumper stickers, or magnets. It is not required on pens, pencils, rulers, mugs, potholders, key tags, golf balls and similar small campaign promotional items where a disclaimer cannot be conveniently printed. The disclaimer is not required on t-shirts, caps, hats, and other articles of clothing; skywriting and airplane banners; or committee checks and receipts.

Penalties

The penalty for failing to comply with the Act’s disclaimer requirements is a fine of up to $5,000 per violation. In addition, any person who violates the disclaimer requirements concerning ballot measure and independent expenditure advertisements may be liable for a fine of up to three times the cost of the advertisement, including placement costs.
Authority

The following Government Code sections and Title 2 regulations provide authority for the information in this chapter.

Government Code Sections

82041.5 Mass Mailing.
84305 Requirements for Mass Mailing.
84310 Identification Requirements for Telephone Calls.
84501 Advertisement.
84505 Avoidance of Disclosure.
84506 Disclaimer: Independent Expenditure Ads
84506.5 Disclaimer: Independent Expenditure Ads; Not Authorized by Candidate.
84507 Disclaimer: Legible and Audible.
84509 Amended Disclaimers.
84510 Fines.
84511 Ballot Measure Ads; Paid Spokesperson Disclosure.

Title 2 Regulations

18435 Definition of Mass Mailing and Sender.
18440 Telephone Advocacy.
18450.1 Definitions. Advertisement Disclosure.
18450.4 Contents of Disclosure Statements. Advertisement Disclosure.
18450.5 Amended Advertisement Disclosure.
18450.11 Spokesperson Disclosure.
A. Overview

Individuals and entities making independent expenditures ("IEs") must file timely disclosure reports showing amounts paid and the candidates and ballot measures supported and opposed. The Act requires reporting of IEs at specific times so that voters are fully informed and the true source of those paying for the independent expenditures is disclosed. In general, an IE of $1,000 or more is reported on each of the forms listed below. Form 462 is signed by a principal officer stating that a communication reported as an independent expenditure meets the legal standards and there has been no reimbursement.

This chapter reviews when and where campaign statements that disclose independent expenditures must be filed:

- Form 461 Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Statement
- Form 462 Verification of Independent Expenditures
- Form 465 Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report
- Form 496 24-Hour Independent Expenditure Report

Quick Tip

Certain 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations that elect to use event based reporting should refer to Chapter 4.
Deadlines for filing reports are provided on filing schedules posted on the FPPC website. Disclosure reports must be filed on time so that voters are informed before an election.

- Filing deadlines cannot be extended.
- For statements required to be mailed, the date of the postmark is considered the date filed.
- Failure to file on time may lead to late filing penalties of $10 for each day the statement is late.
- State electronic filers may be fined for a late filed paper and electronic form resulting in a $20/day fine.
- Failure to file a statement may result in additional penalties.

**Filing locations**

For purposes of determining where to file, an independent expenditure committee qualifies anew each year, and counts only the independent expenditures made to support or oppose candidates or measures during the current calendar year to determine filing locations.

Reports are filed at different locations. This is because the campaign statement, Form 461, which provides a full review of committee activity is generally filed with the Secretary of State because a committee will often make an IE in connection with a state candidate or measure. Individual reporting forms, such as the Form 465 and 496, are always filed in the same location as where the candidate or measure is being voted upon. The FPPC receives the Form 462 which verifies the accuracy of campaign reporting.
B. Where to File

Form 461- Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Report:

When an individual or business entity qualifies as an independent expenditure committee it must file the Form 461 as a state, county or city committee. The information below identifies the filing locations for a person that only makes IEs in a single jurisdiction.

State Committee: A person that makes independent expenditures to support or oppose state measures/candidates. The committee will also qualify as a state committee unless it qualifies as county or city committee.

County Committee: A person that makes 70% or more of its independent expenditures to support or oppose candidates and measures in only one county, or in more than one jurisdiction within one county is a county committee.

City Committee: A person that makes 70% or more of its independent expenditures to support or oppose candidates and measures in only one city. (Including consolidated city/county municipalities such as San Francisco).

Calendar Year Determination: A person qualifies as an independent expenditure committee anew each year and counts independent expenditures only during the current calendar year.

Multiple Jurisdictions: If a person does make IEs in more than one jurisdiction in a calendar year, FPPC regulation 18227.5 sets out the rules for determining where to file the Form 461. For example, a person that makes an IE to support or oppose a state measure and a county candidate will file as a state committee. Independent expenditure committees file in the same manner as major donor committees and persons should also consult Campaign Manual 5 for detailed information on quarterly review rules and examples.

Note: FPPC rules require that persons shall not knowingly file in an incorrect jurisdiction with the intention of avoiding the appropriate legal disclosure to the public. The FPPC is always available to provide compliance advice.

Quick Tip

Although there are several campaign statements for each IE: the statements are simple to complete. The Form 462 and Form 465 are two page forms and the Form 496 and 462 are on page forms.
Form 465 Supplemental IE Report and Form 496 24-hour Report:

A committee making IEs must file the Forms 465 and 496 in the same jurisdiction as the candidate or measure that is supported or opposed by the IE. This is so the voters in that jurisdiction have access at the same election office to information about all payments, both contributions and IEs, made in connection with the particular election.

Where to File Form 462 Verification:

The Form 462-Verification of Independent Expenditures is always filed with the FPPC. (www.fppc.ca.gov)

The following examples provide guidance on where to file the Forms 461, 462, 465, and 496.

A. A corporation made a single independent expenditure of $30,500 for a newspaper ad supporting a candidate for Insurance Commissioner. The ad is released 70 days before the candidate's election. The filings are as follows:

- Form 496 within 24 hours of making the expenditure (no Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday extension applies).
- Form 462 within 10 days of making the independent expenditure.
- Form 465 when the candidate must file a pre-election report.
- Form 461 after the election.

The Forms 461, 465 and 496 are filed with the Secretary of State. The Form 462 is emailed to the FPPC. Refer to filing schedules for deadlines and form instructions for filing requirements.
B. An individual made two independent expenditures 14 days before the November election. The expenditures were made on the same day; one for $30,000 to support a state ballot measure; the second expenditure was $2,000 to oppose a city ballot measure.

The individual must file:

- Form 496 with the Secretary of State disclosing the $30,000 expenditure.
- Form 496 with the city clerk disclosing the $2,000 expenditure.
- Both reports must be filed within 24 hours.
- Form 462 must be emailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- Form 465 must be filed with the Secretary of State disclosing the $30,000 state IE.
- Form 465 must be filed with the city clerk disclosing the $2,000 local IE.
- Form 461 must be filed with the Secretary of State disclosing both expenditures.
C. A business made two independent expenditures, each $5,000, to oppose a county ballot measure. The first independent expenditure was made during the first preelection reporting period; the second independent expenditure was made five days before the election. No other expenditures were made.

The business must file the following:

- Form 496 must be filed within 24 hours of each of the independent expenditures.
- Form 462 must be emailed to the FPPC within 10 days of making the first independent expenditure. No other Form 462 must be filed.
- Form 465 on or before the deadline for the first preelection statement discloses the first IE.
- Form 465 at the semi-annual filing deadline following the election discloses the second IE.
- Form 461 at the semi-annual filing deadline following the election discloses both IEs.

Except for Form 462, the above reports are filed with the local filing officer. Refer to filing schedules for deadlines and form instructions for filing requirements.
Electronic Filing

State committees are required to file electronically with the Secretary of State if independent expenditures or contributions made during a calendar year total $25,000 or more. The cumulative totals include expenditures a state committee makes regarding a local election. Independent expenditure committees need not file electronically in any calendar year in which they have not reached the $25,000 threshold.

Local jurisdictions may also require electronic filing. For information about state electronic filing requirements, contact the Secretary of State’s office at (916) 653-6224 or visit www.sos.ca.gov. Depending on when a committee qualifies, its first electronic report may be a 24-hour independent expenditure report, a supplemental independent expenditure report, or a semi-annual report.

State Filers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Filers</th>
<th>Electronic Filers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>461: Paper</td>
<td>Paper and Electronic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>462: Email only</td>
<td>Email only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>465: Paper only</td>
<td>Paper and Electronic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>496: Electronic only</td>
<td>Electronic only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>497: Electronic only</td>
<td>Electronic only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Form 461 – Committee Campaign Statement

The Form 461 is used to report independent expenditures made to support or oppose California state and local candidates, officeholders, and ballot measures. If a committee makes contributions to state or local candidates or committees, they must also be disclosed. The report provides the public with information regarding the nature and interests of the person making the payments as well as a complete review of all IEs made during the applicable reporting period.

Independent expenditure committees terminate automatically at the end of each calendar year. On January 1 of every year, the slate is wiped clean. Independent expenditure committees are required to file Form 461 at specified times. State and county committees are subject to semi-annual filing while a city committee is also subject to pre-election deadlines.

State committees must file Forms 461 and 465 in paper format with the Secretary of State even if the committee has made expenditures exceeding $25,000 and must file reports electronically. Both statements may be fined $10.
When to File Form 461

Semi-Annual Statements: All Committees

January 1 – June 30: Due July 31

If an entity qualifies as a committee during the first six months of the year, the Form 461 is due no later than July 31, covering the period January 1 through June 30. If no additional independent expenditures or contributions are made during the second semi-annual period, July 1 through December 31, no other Form 461 is required during the calendar year.

July 1 – December 31: Due January 31

If an entity qualifies as a committee during the first six months of the year and any amount of contributions or independent expenditures are made after June 30, a Form 461 covering the period July 1 through December 31 is required. If an entity or individual qualifies as a committee during the second six months of the year, its Form 461 will be due no later than January 31, covering the period January 1 through December 31 of the prior year.

Semi–Annual Statement - Early Filing

An independent expenditure committee may file campaign statements in advance of a deadline. For example, if a committee knows it will only make one independent expenditure of $1,000 or more, it may file the Form 461 at the same time the Form 465 or Form 496 is due.

Preelection Statements: City Committees

During a six-month period in which a city election is held, a city independent expenditure committee may be required to file two preelection statements. Preelection statements are required if the committee makes independent expenditures or contributions that total $500 or more during the period covered by the statement.

Check the FPPC website for filing schedules. Most local election and all state election filing schedules are posted.
Amendments

If, at any time, a committee determines that an error has occurred on a previous filing, an amendment is required. Check the amendment box on Form 461 and complete Part 1. Only the amended information, including Part 3, if applicable, must be disclosed. Like the original, the amendment must be signed and dated. There is no deadline for filing amendments. However, amendments should be filed as soon as practicable.

**Where to File Form 461**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Committees</th>
<th>Secretary of State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original &amp; 1 Copy</td>
<td>Political Reform Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.O. Box 1467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1500 11th Street, Room 495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fax (916) 653-5045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: A copy is required, when applicable, with CalPERS or CalSTRS offices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Committees</th>
<th>County Election Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original &amp; 1 Copy</td>
<td>Note: Includes most LAFCO proposals and LAFCO may require a copy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Committees</th>
<th>City Clerk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original &amp; 1 Copy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Statement Period and Date of Election

If this is the first filing of the calendar year, the “from” date should be January 1. Otherwise, this date should be the day after the closing date of the most recently filed Form 461. The closing date of the statement depends on the type of statement being filed. Only city committees complete the “Date of Election” box when filing a preelection statement.
1 **Filer Information**

Enter the legal name of the individual or entity filing the statement. If the filer is commonly known to the public by another name, that name may be used. When a person directs and controls the making of contributions and independent expenditures of a related entity (e.g., a subsidiary or a majority shareholder of a corporation) that must be aggregated and reported on Form 461, list as the “Name of Filer” the name of the individual or entity that directs and controls the making of the contributions and independent expenditures.

**Ex 3.1 – Hector Flores is the sole owner of two separate businesses. Hector directed a $7,000 contribution from one business to a local ballot measure committee in January and made a $5,000 independent expenditure opposing a local candidate in February from the other business entity. Hector will file the Form 461 under the name “Hector Flores (including aggregated contributions and independent expenditures).” The Form 461 will identify each payment and the business entity that made each payment.**

In addition:

- **Multiple Entities.** Indicate that the campaign statement includes the contributions and independent expenditures of other entities. For example, “ABC Corporation, including aggregated contributions/independent expenditures.”

- **New Entities.** Identify any entities added to this report that were not included in a prior report filed for the current calendar year, as well as any entities included in a prior report for the current calendar year that are no longer required to aggregate under the name of filer.

- **New Names.** Identify both names if the “Name of Filer” listed on a previous report filed for the current calendar year is different than the name identified on this report. For example, “Tim Lewis, formerly Lewis Construction.”

- **Officer.** Enter the name of the responsible officer of an entity or organization filing the statement.

2 **Nature and Interests of Filer**

The nature and interests of the filer must be clearly identified. The business activity, association interests, or economic interest must be described in the appropriate space. When payments from different persons are reported, if there are different interests, an attachment must identify the various persons and respective interests.

3 **Summary**

The summary lists the totals of all expenditures and contributions (including loans) made during the period covered by the statement. Collectively, Lines 1-3 represent the expenditures and contributions made during the reporting period. Line 4 must be the same figure shown on Line 5 of the previously filed statement or zero if it is the first statement for the calendar year. Line 5 represents the total of all expenditures and contributions made since January 1 of the calendar year covered by the report.

4 **Verification**

An attorney, a certified public accountant, or a responsible officer of an entity or an entity filing jointly with any number of affiliates may sign the verification on behalf of the entity or entities. However, a statement filed by an individual must be signed by the individual rather than the individual’s attorney or certified public accountant. The Form 461 is not considered filed if it is not signed.
Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committee
Campaign Statement

Contributions (Including Loans, Forgiveness of Loans, and Loan Guarantees) and Expenditures Made

(If more space is needed, use additional copies of this page for continuation sheets.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME, STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE</th>
<th>TYPE OF PAYMENT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT</th>
<th>CANDIDATE AND OFFICIAL, MEASURE AND REFERENDUM, OR COMMITTEE</th>
<th>AMOUNT THIS PERIOD</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE AMOUNT RELATED TO THIS CANDIDATE, MEASURE, OR COMMITTEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/15/xx</td>
<td>Sacramento Bee 2100 Q Street Sacramento, CA 95819</td>
<td>Monetary Contribution</td>
<td>ad</td>
<td>Proposition 33, State or No on Prop 33, Voters for Clean Energy</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Media Services 10 I Street Folsom, CA 95631</td>
<td>Non-Monetary Contribution</td>
<td>television and radio ads</td>
<td>Proposition 33, State or No on Prop 33, Voters for Clean Energy</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/1/xx</td>
<td>KCRA Television ($3,000) 1150 9th Street, Modesto, CA 95350</td>
<td>Monetary Contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KFBK Radio ($5,000) 1400 Ethan Way, Sacramento, CA 95825</td>
<td>Non-Monetary Contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/20/xx</td>
<td>Frank Solo ($6,000) 124 Salem Dr., Sacramento, CA 95816</td>
<td>Independent Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUBTOTAL $ 30,000

5 Contributions and Expenditures Made

Disclose the dates of the contributions or independent expenditures made during the period. A monetary contribution is made on the date it is mailed, delivered, or otherwise transmitted to the candidate or committee. A nonmonetary contribution is made on the earlier of the following: the date the expenditure is made for the goods or services; or the date the candidate, committee, or an agent obtains possession, control, or the benefit of the goods or services.

For purposes of disclosure on the Form 461, an independent expenditure has been made when a payment is made in connection with the development, production, or dissemination of the communication, or when the communication is disseminated to the public, whichever is earlier.

- Itemize each payment of $100 or more. The name, street address, city, state, and zip code of the payee must be included. Also include committee I.D. numbers if applicable. Do not use a post office box number.
- Check the box indicating what type of payment was made. If the payment was a nonmonetary contribution, provide a description of the payment.
- If a total of $100 or more was contributed or expended during a calendar year to support or oppose a single candidate or ballot measure, disclose the name of the candidate and the office sought or held, or the name and jurisdiction of the ballot measure. For each candidate or
measure listed, indicate whether the payment was made to support or oppose the candidate or measure. If a nonmonetary contribution was made to a general purpose committee, enter the name of the committee.

- Provide the amount of contributions or independent expenditures made this period relative to each candidate, measure, or committee and the cumulative amount contributed or paid since January 1 of the current calendar year.

**Software Programs:** Software programs may be purchased and may vary the display of data.

**Valuing Mailings**

**Multiple candidates/measures:** If a mass mailing supports or opposes more than one candidate or measure, the value attributable to each may be calculated by prorating the costs based on the amount of space allotted to each candidate or measure supported or opposed in the mailing.

**Political and non-political material:** The cost of a mailing containing both express advocacy supporting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate as well as non-political material may be prorated. Costs directly associated with the political message are reportable, including staff time of more than 10 percent in a calendar month.

**Additional Rules**

**Affiliated Entities:** When contributions or expenditures from affiliated entities are itemized on one statement, identify the entity that made each payment. In addition, the statement must identify the addition or deletion of any entity for which contributions and expenditures are aggregated together.

**Agents and Contractors:** If a payment was made to an agent or independent contractor who then made payments on behalf of the filer (subvendor payments), disclose payments made to the subvendor in addition to the payments made to the agent. Report the name and address of the agent, followed by the name and address of each subvendor paid $500 or more. Amounts paid to the agent are disclosed in the “Amount this Period” column and the amounts paid to a subvendor(s) may be reported in the “Name of Payee” or the “Description of Payment” column.

**Employee Time:** If an employee spends more than 10 percent of his/her compensated time in any one month engaged in campaign activities (e.g., phone banks or precinct walking), the employer must report the payments. The names, addresses, and the specific salaries of the employees are not required to be disclosed. The amount is the pro-rata portion of the gross salary attributed to political activity.

If the committee makes contributions totaling $10,000 or more in a calendar year, consult FPPC-Campaign Disclosure Manual 5 for Major Donor Committees. The Form 461 is used by business entities and individuals to report contributions and independent expenditures. Information related to contributions is provided in Manual 5.
D. Form 462 - Verification of Independent Expenditures

The Form 462 identifies the individual who is a principal officer of a committee that has made an independent expenditure. This individual acknowledges, under penalty of perjury, the committee’s independent expenditures were not coordinated with the listed candidate or measure committee (or the opponent) and that the committee will report all contributions and reimbursements as required by law.

Who is the Principal Officer?

A principal officer is the individual primarily responsible for approving the political activity of the committee such as:

- Authorizing the content of communications.
- Authorizing independent expenditures.
- Determining the committee’s campaign strategy.
- In the case of a business entity that is making independent expenditures, if more than one individual shares primary responsibility for approving political activities, each individual is a principal officer.
- An individual using his/her personal funds to make IEs is considered the principal officer.

When to File

File within 10 days from the date of an independent expenditure that totals, in the aggregate, $1,000 or more to support or oppose a candidate or measure in a calendar year. If a change must be made to a previously filed form, amendments are due within 10 days (e.g. the jurisdiction was missing).

Where to File

The Form 462 must be filed via email with the FPPC. The original form must be maintained with the committee’s records for four years.
Form 462
Verification of Independent Expenditures

This verification form identifies an individual responsible for ensuring that the campaign committee’s independent expenditures were not coordinated with the listed candidate or measure committee (or the opponent) and that the committee will report all contributions and reimbursements as required by law. An independent expenditure is not subject to state or local contribution limits.

1 Name of Committee:

Identify the name and street address of the committee that is making the independent expenditure(s). The address should be the same as the address reported on the Form 461 Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Report.

2 Independent Expenditures

List the candidate(s) and measure(s) supported or opposed. If the committee files this form and later makes independent expenditures in connection with other candidates or measures, subsequent forms do not need to repeat the previously identified candidates and measures.

3 Verification

The verification must be signed by a principal officer. An individual who is making independent expenditures is the principal officer. In the case of a business entity making independent expenditures and more than one individual qualifies as a principal officer, only one individual must sign the Form 462.

Note: This individual acknowledges, under penalty of perjury, the committee’s independent expenditures were not coordinated with the listed candidate or measure committee (or the opponent) and that the committee will report all contributions and reimbursements as required by law.
E. Form 465 - Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report

A Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465) is filed when a committee makes independent expenditures totaling $1,000 or more to support or oppose a single candidate or a single measure.

If a communication lists more than one candidate or measure, the Form 465 is filed only if $1,000 or more was expended on each candidate or measure featured. A separate Form 465 must be filed for each candidate or measure supported or opposed.

When to File

The Form 465 is filed at the same time(s) the candidate or ballot measure supported or opposed must file its pre-election or semi-annual campaign reports (Form 460). This provides the public with a total picture of the money spent in connection with the particular candidate or measure. Consult the election filing schedule for deadlines.

Where to File

File Form 465 in the same manner and location(s) that a committee primarily formed to support or oppose the candidate or ballot measure identified in the communication would file. This is so the voters in the affected jurisdiction have access to reports showing who has spent funds in an attempt to influence the voters there. A separate Form 465 must be filed for each candidate or ballot measure supported or opposed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction of Candidate or Measure Supported/ Opposed</th>
<th>Location of Filing Form 465</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate or Assembly District</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CalPERS/CalSTRS</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also copy at CalPERS/CalSTRS board office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>County in which the candidate or measure will appear on the ballot, or in the case of LAFCO proposals likely to appear on the county ballot. LAFCO may require a copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>City in which the candidate or measure will appear on the ballot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

File an original and one copy in the first filing location listed in the above chart for your type of committee and activity. If additional filing locations are listed, file one copy in each location.

An independent expenditure committee that triggers a Form 465 in connection with the second pre-election filing must file the report by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight mail.
Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Government Code Section 84203.5)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

A Report covers period from ______ to ______.

B Amendment (Explain Below)

Date for the Form 465 would cover the period through the closing date of the most recent Form 465 filed related to the candidate or measure supported or opposed. If this is the first Form 465 filed for the current year for a particular candidate or measure, the period covered begins January 1. The closing date of the period covered is the closing date for the current campaign statement being filed for the candidate or measure. For example, if the independent expenditure was made during the first preelection period, the Form 465 would cover the period through the closing date for the first preelection statement filed by the candidate or measure identified in the communication.

B Amendments

To amend a previously filed Form 465, file another Form 465 with the “Amendment” box checked and the corrected or missing information included. Like the original, the amendment must be signed and dated. There is no deadline for filing amendments. However, amendments should be filed as soon as practicable. File the amendment in the same location(s) as the original.

1 Filer Information

Provide the committee’s full name, street address, city, state, zip code, and telephone number.

2 Name of Candidate or Measure Supported or Opposed

Report the name of the candidate supported or opposed by the independent expenditure and the office the candidate is seeking, including the district number if applicable. Or, report the name of the ballot measure supported or opposed, including the ballot number or letter and the jurisdiction of the election. Indicate whether the independent expenditure supported or opposed the candidate or ballot measure.
Independent Expenditures Made

Provide the date the independent expenditure was made, as well as the name and address of the payee and a short description of the expenditure, its amount, and the cumulative amount expended to date on the candidate or measure supported or opposed.
Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report

**Summary**

1. Total independent expenditures of $100 or more made this period. (Part 3.) .......................................................... $ 10,000
2. Total independent expenditures under $100 made this period. (Not itemized.) .......................................................... $ 0
3. Total independent expenditures made this period (Add Lines 1 + 2.) .................................................................................. TOTAL $ 10,000

**Filing Officers**

Enter the name and address of each filing officer with whom the committee files its regular pre-election or semi-annual statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF FILING OFFICER</th>
<th>ADDRESS (NO. AND STREET)</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>ZIP CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td>1500 11th Street</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>95817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Verification**

I certify that the “independent expenditure(s)” disclosed in this statement were not “made at the behest of” the candidate or committee that benefitted from the expenditure(s) as those terms are defined in Government Code Section 82031 and FPPC Regulation 18225.7. I have used all reasonable diligence in preparing and reviewing this statement and to the best of my knowledge the information contained herein is true and complete. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 5/18/xx 

By ____________________________

SIGNATURE OF FILER, TREASURER OR ASSISTANT TREASURER
F. Form 496 – 24-hour Independent Expenditure Report

The 24-hour reports are the most important of the independent expenditure disclosure reports because they provide real-time information before the election about who is spending to influence a candidate or measure in an election. The reports discussed below must be filed in addition to any required preelection or semi-annual campaign statements.

Independent expenditures also must be disclosed on the committee’s next campaign statement (Form 461), and on the Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465).

A Form 496 must be filed for each independent expenditure of $1,000 or more. For example, if a Form 496 was filed reporting a $5,000 IE in support of a candidate; a second Form 496 is required when the subsequent IEs reach $1,000 or more.

State Committees

Form 496 - 24 hour Report: All state committees that make an independent expenditure of $1,000 or more to support or oppose a single state candidate or a single state ballot measure during the candidate’s or measure’s 90 day election cycle must file a separate Form 496 for each candidate or ballot measure supported or opposed electronically with the Secretary of State within 24 hours of making the expenditure. This is true even if the committee has not met the $25,000 threshold that requires regular campaign disclosure reports to be filed online. The report must be filed within 24 hours of making a late independent expenditure regardless of the day of the week.

Local Committees

Form 496 – 24-hour Report: This form must be filed if an independent expenditure is made of $1,000 or more to support or oppose a single candidate or a single ballot measure during the 90 days prior to the local candidate’s or measure’s election. A separate report must be filed for each candidate or measure supported or opposed by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery, or personal delivery.
Regular mail may not be used. Check with the local jurisdiction for electronic filing requirements. The report must be filed within 24 hours of making a late independent expenditure regardless of the day of the week.

**Where to File**

File the report in the same location(s) that a committee primarily formed to support or oppose the candidate or measure identified in the communication would file. (See chart on Page XX.) This allows the voters in the jurisdiction where the election is taking place to have access to reports showing who has spent funds attempting to influence them. File a separate report for each candidate or ballot measure supported or opposed.

Ex 3.4 – An individual living in Sacramento County makes a late independent expenditure to support a Yolo County ballot measure. He will file the Form 496 with the clerk of Yolo County, where the measure is being voted on. If the same individual makes an independent expenditure to support a city candidate in Elk Grove, he will also file a Form 496 with the city clerk of Elk Grove.
496 Independent Expenditure Report

A Filer Information

Enter the committee’s name, street address, city, state, and zip code.

B Date of This Filing

Indicate the date of filing the report.

Report Number

Assign a unique number to each late independent expenditure report, such as 1, 2, 3, PR-1, PR-2, PR-3, etc.

Amendments

To amend a previously filed report, file a new Form 496 with the corrected information, a new report number, and the “Amendment” box checked. The report number assigned to the original report being amended should be entered on the “Amendment to Report No.” line. There is no deadline for filing amendments. However, amendments should be filed as soon as practicable. File the amendment in the same location(s) as the original.

How to Complete Form 496

Significant amendments to the 496 24-hour IE reports known before the election should be made as soon as possible before the election. Filers reporting minimal IEs before an election and amending after the election to show substantial IEs could be referred to Enforcement for nondisclosure.

Quick Tip

Number of Pages

Note the number of pages included in the report.

1 Name of Candidate/Ballot Measure Supported or Opposed

Disclose the name, office sought or held, and the district number, if applicable, of the candidate supported or opposed in the communication, or the name, ballot number or letter, and jurisdiction of the ballot measure supported or opposed. Check the box indicating whether the candidate or ballot measure was supported or opposed by the independent expenditure.

2 Independent Expenditures Made

Disclose the date the committee made the expenditure, a description of the expenditure, e.g.,
printing, postage, mail house, etc., the amount of the expenditure, and the cumulative-to-date total relating to each candidate or measure. The cumulative-to-date total must be accurate on the most recent report filed, but the committee is not obligated to amend the cumulative amount on previous reports.

The cumulative-to-date total includes IE’s made in connection with a candidate or measure’s upcoming election. When a committee has made IEs in connection with a candidate’s prior election, do not include the amount in the current report. For example, IEs made in connection with a general election would not include the amount of the IEs made in connection with a primary election or a prior year’s election.

Contributions of $100 or More Received

Part 3. This section is not applicable to businesses or individuals using business or personal funds. If you are receiving contributions, contact the FPPC for filing assistance.
G. Additional Reports

In addition to the Forms 461, 462, 465, and 496, other reports may be required depending on an entity or individual’s activity, including:

- 497 24-hour Contribution Report (Form 497)
- Paid Spokesperson Report (Form 511)
- Report of Communications Identifying State Candidates (Form E-530)

It is important to review where each report must be filed as several of the filing locations may not be the same as the committee’s regular filing locations. If the committee makes contributions totaling $10,000 in a calendar year, consult FPPC Campaign Disclosure Manual 5 for Major Donor Committees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makes contributions totaling $1,000 or more to a single candidate or primarily formed ballot measure committee during the 90 days before the candidate’s or measure’s election</td>
<td>Form 497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes contributions totaling $1,000 or more to a political party (including central committees) during the 90 days before a state election</td>
<td>Form 497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes expenditures of $5,000 or more for an individual to appear in a ballot measure advertisement</td>
<td>Form 511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes payments of $50,000 or more to “feature” a state candidate in an electioneering communication 45 days before an election</td>
<td>Form E-530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes contribution(s) totaling $10,000 to state officeholders during the first and third quarters of an odd-numbered year</td>
<td>Form 461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Form 497 24-hour Contribution Report

A Form 497 must be filed if, during the 90 days before an election, a contribution of $1,000 or more, or multiple contributions aggregating $1,000 or more, is made to a single candidate or primarily formed ballot measure committee. A Form 497 must also be filed if a committee makes a contribution of $1,000 or more to a political party (including local central committees) during the 90 days before any state election including special state elections. The Form 497 must be filed in addition to any required preelection or semi-annual statements. Late contributions also must be disclosed on the committee’s next campaign statement (Form 461).

When to File

A contribution is made on the date the contribution is mailed, delivered, or otherwise transmitted to a candidate or committee. Generally, the 24-hour deadline is extended to the next business day on Saturdays, and Sundays, and Official State holidays; however, the Form 497 must be filed within 24 hours on the Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday immediately prior to an election.

Where to File

State Committees

State committees file the Form 497 electronically with the Secretary of State; no paper copies are required. This is true even if the committee has not met the $25,000 threshold that requires regular campaign disclosure reports to be filed online.

Local Committees

The Form 497 must be filed by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery service, or personal delivery at the same locations where the committee files its campaign statement Form 461. Regular mail may not be used. Check with the local jurisdiction for electronic filing requirements.
How to Complete Form 497

1 Filer’s Information
Enter the committee’s name, street address, city, state, and zip code.

2 Contribution(s) Made
For contributions made, provide:

- The date made;
- The recipient’s full name and address;
- Office sought or held (if to a candidate);
- Ballot measure number or letter and jurisdiction (if to a ballot measure committee);
- The date of the election, if a state committee is disclosing a late contribution to a local candidate; and
- The amount of the contribution.

- Non Monetary Contributions:
In the field identifying the recipient’s name and address; report the committee receiving the benefit of the contribution and not the vendor. For example a payment for a newspaper ad would identify “Committee to Support Measure B” as the recipient, rather than the Daily Press.

A Date of This Filing
Indicate the date of filing this report.

Report No
Assign a unique number to each late contribution report, such as 1, 2, 3, PR-1, PR-2, PR-3, etc.

Amendments
To amend a previously filed Form 497, file a new Form 497 with the corrected information, a new report number, and the “Amendment” box checked. The report number assigned to the original report being amended should be entered on the “Amendment to Report No.” line. There is no deadline for filing amendments. However, amendments should be filed as soon as practicable. File the amendment in the same location(s) as the original.
Form 511- Paid Spokesperson Report

A Paid Spokesperson Report (Form 511) is filed by an independent expenditure committee that makes expenditures totaling $5,000 or more for an individual’s appearance in a printed, televised, or radio advertisement, or in a telephone message, to support or oppose the qualification, passage, or defeat of a state or local ballot measure. (The advertisement itself also must disclose that the individual is being paid to appear.)

Form 511 must be filed in addition to any other statements the committee is required to file. Payments made to spokespersons also must be reported on the committee’s next campaign statement (Form 461).

When and Where to File

File Form 511 within 10 days of making payments totaling $5,000 or more to the individual that will appear in the advertisement(s). File Form 511 in the same location(s) the committee files its campaign statements. The form must also be filed electronically for state committees with electronic filing requirements. Local committees must check with the local jurisdiction for electronic filing requirements.
Paid Spokesperson Report

Type or print in ink. Amounts may be rounded to whole dollars.

NAME OF FILER
New Ventures, Inc.

AREA CODE/PHONE NUMBER  916-333-3333

E-MAIL (Optional)

STREET ADDRESS  345 Stone Way

CITY Sacramento  STATE CA  ZIP CODE 95826

Date Stamp

BALLOT MEASURE SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED (INCLUDE BALLOT NUMBER OR LETTER AND JURISDICTION)

AMOUNT

5/20/xx  Frank Soto  124 Salem Drive  Sacramento, CA 95816  Proposition 33  state  6,000

Support  Oppose

Support  Oppose

Support  Oppose

Verification

I have used all reasonable diligence in preparing this report. I have reviewed the report and to the best of my knowledge the information contained herein is true and complete. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 5/27/xx  By ____________________________  (Signature Required)

How to Complete Form 511

1 Filer’s Information

Enter the committee’s name, street address, city, state, and zip code.

2 Payments Made

In the first column, provide the date the payments were made or the services were received, whichever is earlier. In the second column, indicate the name and address of the individual who was paid $5,000 or more to appear in the advertisement. In the third column, provide the name, number or letter, and jurisdiction of the ballot measure supported or opposed by the advertisement. Finally, in the last column, indicate the total amount of the expenditure.

3 Verification

An attorney, a certified public accountant, or a responsible officer of an entity or an entity filing jointly with any number of affiliates may sign the verification on behalf of the entity or entities. However, a statement filed by an individual must be signed by the individual rather than the individual’s attorney or certified public accountant. The Form 511 is not considered filed if it is not signed.

4 Amendments

To amend a previously filed Form 511, file another Form 511 with the corrected information. Check the “Amendment” box and give a brief description of the amendment. Like the original, the amendment must be signed and dated. There is no deadline for filing amendments. However, amendments should be filed as soon as practicable. File the amendment in the same location(s) as the original.
Electioneering Communications Identifying State Candidates (Form E-530)

When an independent expenditure committee makes a payment or a promise of payment totaling $50,000 or more for a communication that clearly identifies a state candidate who will appear on the ballot of an upcoming election, but the communication does not expressly advocate the election or defeat of that candidate, and the communication is disseminated during the 45 days before the election, a Form E-530 must be filed electronically with the Secretary of State. File Form E-530 within 48 hours of making payments, or promising to make payments, totaling $50,000 or more. The report must disclose the amount and date of the payment(s), and the name of and office sought by the candidate identified in the communication. A separate report must be filed for each state candidate identified in the communication.

The report must be verified by a written “electronic filing declaration,” signed, dated, and verified on the same date that the report is transmitted to the Secretary of State. This declaration must be retained in the committee’s records for five years following the date that the campaign report to which it relates is filed. The statement must include the following language:

“I have used all reasonable diligence in preparing this report and to the best of my knowledge the information contained herein is true and complete. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.”

How to File Form E-530

There is no paper version of the Form E-530. To access the online form, go to the Secretary of State’s website (www.sos.ca.gov) and click on “For Filers Only” under Campaign Finance. You must apply for a Filer ID and password using the form provided. Then, from the same location on the website, you can click on the E-530 link to access the form.
Authority

The following Government Code sections and Title 2 regulations provide authority for the information in this chapter:

Government Code Sections

81004 Reports and Statements; Perjury; Verification.
81004.5 Reports and Statements; Amendments.
81007 Mailing of Report or Statement.
82015 Contribution.
82036 Late Contribution.
82036.5 Late Independent Expenditure.
82044 Payment.
82046 Period Covered.
84200 Semi-Annual Statements.
84200.5 Preelection Statements.
84200.6 Special Campaign Statements and Reports.
84202.7 Time for Filing by Committees of Odd-Numbered Year Reports.
84203 Late Contribution; Reports.
84203.5 Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report.
84204 Late Independent Expenditures; Reports.
84211 Contents of Campaign Statement.
84213 Verification.
84215 Campaign Reports and Statements; Where to File.
84303 Expenditure by Agent or Independent Contractor.
84511 Ballot Measure Ads; Paid Spokesperson Disclosure.
84605 Who Shall File Online.
84615 Campaign Reports and Statements – Electronic Filing for Local Agencies
85310 Communications Identifying State Candidates.
85500 Independent Expenditures; 24-hour Disclosure; Coordination.
Title 2 Regulations

18116 Reports and Statements; Filing Dates.
18215 Contribution.
18225 Expenditure.
18227.5 General Purpose Committees: State, County, or City.
18402.1 Principal Officers.
18423 Payments for Personal Services as Contributions and Expenditures.
18426 Semi–Annual Statement Early Filing.
18428 Reporting of Contributions and Independent Expenditures Required to be Aggregated.
18431 Reporting of Expenditures by an Agent or Independent Contractor.
18465.1 Verification of Online Filers.
Multi-purpose organizations that occasionally make independent expenditures on state or local ballot measures may qualify for simplified reporting. FPPC Regulation 18413 provides an event based reporting alternative for certain 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Qualifying organizations do not have to file a statement of organization (Form 410) and file ongoing reports as a recipient committee. Alternatively, these organizations are permitted to disclose the payments on independent expenditure reporting forms that are required when an independent expenditure is made.

The event based reporting alternative may not be used to disclose:

- Contributions to candidates or committees, including contributions to ballot measure committees
- Independent expenditures to support or oppose candidates

A. What is Event Based Reporting?

An organization may use event based reporting only if the organization meets the following criteria:

- The organization has obtained 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) tax exempt status from the IRS and obtained a tax exempt determination from the California Franchise Tax Board, or from the state where it is incorporated.
- The organization uses funds from its general treasury and does not solicit donations for political purposes.
- The organization is multi-purpose (i.e., it receives donations, membership dues, or other payments for purposes other than making political expenditures in California).
- The organization only occasionally makes independent expenditures using donated funds from its general treasury to
support or oppose ballot measures in California. “Occasionally makes independent expenditures” means expenditures from the organization’s general treasury totaling, in the aggregate, in a calendar year:

- Less than $500,000 to support or oppose four or fewer state ballot measures; or
- Less than $50,000 to support or oppose one or more local ballot measures.

What Are the Advantages?

- Event based reporting is easier. An organization is not required to:
  - Register as a recipient committee and file the Form 410.
  - File on-going committee reports, such as the Form 460.
  - File the Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465).

Instead, the organization may report all required donor and expenditure information in a single campaign statement on the Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496).

Exceptions:

A multi-purpose organization will qualify as a recipient committee if it makes contributions to candidates, ballot measures and other committees or because it uses funds to pay for the independent expenditures from a source other than its general treasury. For example, a multi-purpose organization that requests donors to help fund political campaigns may not use event-based reporting. Organizations are encouraged to seek advice before using the event based reporting to ensure compliance with reporting rules.

As stated earlier, the event based reporting is limited to existing multi-purpose organizations that only occasionally make independent expenditures in connection with California ballot measures.
Registered recipient committees

Some 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations that are registered as recipient committees (for example, they have made contributions to other committees) may use event based reporting to disclose occasional independent expenditures made to support or oppose ballot measures, or they may disclose the independent expenditures on their recipient committee reports.

Notices on Political Advertisements

A multi-purpose organization using the event based reporting is required to follow all applicable requirements for disclaimers on political mailings and advertisements. See FPPC charts on “Political Advertising Disclaimers.”

Event Based Reporting

An organization electing to report under the event based reporting method must report an independent expenditure of $1,000 or more on the 24-hour Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Except for Form 462, no other campaign forms are required.

The Form 496 must be filed electronically with the Secretary of State. If an independent expenditure is made to support or oppose a local measure, a copy must also be filed with the city or county filing officer receiving original statements for the primarily formed ballot measure committees.

The Form 496 must be filed within 10 business days after making an independent expenditure of $1,000 or more. If the independent expenditure is made during the 90 days preceding an election, the Form 496 is due within 24 hours after making the independent expenditure.

Form 462 must be signed by a principal officer verifying that communication reported as an independent expenditure is not coordinated with the ballot measure committee and there has been no reimbursement. The Form 462 is emailed to the FPPC within 10 days of making the independent expenditure.
For purposes of filing Form 496, the date an independent expenditure is made is the date the communication is mailed, broadcast, or otherwise disseminated to the public. The organization must maintain records necessary to document the allocation of reportable donors and the independent expenditures reported.
B. How to Complete Form 496

A Filer Information

Enter the organization’s full name, street address, city, state, and zip code. In addition, include the designation “Eligible 501(c)(3) IE Report” or “Eligible 501(c)(4) IE Report” in the “Name of Filer” field.

Principal Officer. The report must also include the name of a current officer, director, or trustee of the organization listed on the organization’s IRS Form 990, who will be responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the report.

B Date of This Filing

Indicate the date of filing the report.

Report Number

Assign a unique number to each independent expenditure report, such as 1, 2, 3, PR-1, PR-2, PR-3, etc.

Amendments

To amend a previously filed 496 Independent Expenditure Report, file a new Form 496 with the corrected information, a new Report Number, and the “Amendment” box checked. The Report Number assigned to the original report being amended should be entered on the “Amendment to Report No.” line. There is no deadline for filing amendments. However, amendments should be filed as soon as practicable. File the amendment with the Secretary of State and the local filing official if applicable.
1 Name of Ballot Measure Supported or Opposed

Disclose the name of the ballot measure, the number or letter, and jurisdiction of the ballot measure supported or opposed. Check the box indicating whether the ballot measure was supported or opposed by the independent expenditure.

2 Independent Expenditures Made

Disclose the date, a description of the independent expenditure (e.g., radio advertisement, billboard, mailing), the amount and the cumulative-to-date total relating to each candidate or measure. The cumulative-to-date total must be accurate on the most recent report filed, but the committee is not obligated to amend the cumulative amount on previous reports.

3 Contributions Received

Disclose the name and street address of the donor and if the donor is an individual, his or her occupation and the name of his or her employer. If the donor is self-employed, disclose the name of the business. Also disclose the date and amount of the payment. Enter the interest rate for loans.

Quick Tip

Foundation or Restricted Funds.
Organizations need not identify a donor as a “contributor” if the organization has evidence clearly establishing that the donor did not intend the donations to be used for political purposes and the organization did not use the funds for such purposes.

Ex 4.2 – A 501(c)(3) organization has never made a contribution or independent expenditure in connection with a California candidate, committee, or ballot measure. The organization opposes a ballot measure on the November ballot. On June 1, using funds in its general treasury, the organization made its first expenditure of $5,000, a contribution to the committee primarily formed to oppose the measure. In October, the organization makes its second expenditure from its general treasury, a $20,000 independent expenditure. The event-based reporting requires that the Form 496 must be filed within 24 hours and disclose the independent expenditure and the donors of $100 or more that contributed to the general treasury since June 2nd whose funds were used to pay for the $20,000 independent expenditure.
Answering Your Questions

A. A non-profit organization made an independent expenditure of $490,000 in connection with a state measure and $10,000 in connection with a local measure. Must the expenditures be aggregated for purposes of determining if the organization can use the event based reporting procedure?

No, the regulation does not require aggregation of the amounts to state and local measures.

B. A nonprofit organization has made contributions and independent expenditures in prior years and is registered as a California recipient committee. May the organization use the event based reporting option to disclose independent expenditures it makes to support or oppose ballot measures?

Yes, as long as the organization’s activity meets the requirements for event based reporting. That is, the organization makes only occasional independent expenditures to support or oppose ballot measures as described in this chapter and it makes those expenditures from funds donated to its general treasury. Independent expenditures to support or oppose candidates and all contributions to candidates and committees must still be disclosed on the organization’s recipient committee statements (Form 460). The organization may choose to disclose its ballot measure expenditures on those reports as well, instead of using the event based reporting option.
C. A qualified non-profit organization has been approached by a slate mailer organization (SMO) for $200,000 to list a state measure on a slate mailer. The SMO states the payment will be an independent expenditure. Can the organization use the event based reporting procedure?

Yes, as long as the payment to the SMO is for an independent expenditure. The organization may not use event based reporting if the payment was a contribution made at the behest of the ballot measure committee. (The organization may only use event based reporting if it had made a political expenditure in the current or prior four years of $1,000 or more.)

D. A qualified non-profit organization on November 1 made a $15,000 contribution from its general treasury to a committee primarily formed for a state measure listed on the November ballot of the following year. This was the first contribution the organization had made in California. In February, the organization made an independent expenditure of $200,000 in connection with the same state measure. What are the reporting obligations?

On or before January 31, the organization must file a campaign report, Form 461, as a state major donor. In February, the organization qualifies for the event based reporting. The organization must file Form 496 and Form 462, within 10 days. On the Form 496 the organization must identify the donors since November 2, whose donations paid for the $200,000 independent expenditure. Each donor who contributed $100 or more must be identified on the Form 496. **Records must be maintained to verify the accounting method.**
E. An organization received a federal grant on the condition that funds could not be used for political purposes. If the grant was the most recent receipt to the general treasury, must the federal government be listed as a donor?

No, as long as the organization has evidence clearly establishing that the grant was not to be used for political purposes, and the funds were not used for such purposes.

F. A non-profit organization is incorporated as a Section 501(c)(4) corporation with the IRS. The organization was incorporated in January and plans to make independent expenditures in the next 60 days. Is there a time period before a new organization making independent expenditures may use the event based reporting procedure?

Regulation 18413 states the organization must be a multi-purpose organization. Although the regulation does not define multi-purpose, the organization should contact the FPPC for written advice before using the event based procedure. An organization that just recently received non-profit status and has not established a track record of spending that would establish it as a multi-purpose organization should not assume it will qualify for event based reporting.
Authority

The following Government Code sections and Title 2 regulations provide authority for the information in this chapter:

**Government Code Sections**

82013 Committee.
82031 Independent Expenditure.

**Title 2 Regulations**

18402.1 Principal Officers.
18412 Identifying Funding Sources for Contributions and Independent Expenditures Made by Certain Tax Exempt Organizations.
18413 Reporting Independent Expenditures by Eligible 501(c)(3)/501(c)(4) Organizations.
18450.4 Contents of Disclosure Statements. Advertisement Disclosure.
18450.5 Amended Advertising Disclosure.
18465.1 Verification of Online Filers.
18550 24-Hour Independent Expenditure Reports.
APPENDIX

The Political Reform Act of 1974

The Political Reform Act (the “Act”) was a voter-approved initiative on the 1974 primary election ballot. One of the major provisions of the Act requires the truthful and accurate disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures during elections.

The Fair Political Practices Commission

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is the independent, nonpartisan state agency authorized to implement, interpret, and enforce the provisions of the Political Reform Act. A full-time chair appointed by the Governor, and four part-time commissioners, one each appointed by the Controller, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Governor comprise the Commission. Each member serves a four-year term and no more than three members may be from the same political party. FPPC staff is composed of five divisions: Executive, Administration, Enforcement, Legal, and Technical Assistance.

Governing Statutes

The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000-91015.

Regulations

Regulations interpreting the Political Reform Act are located at Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, beginning at Section 18109.

Opinions and Advice Letters

The FPPC periodically issues opinions interpreting provisions of the Political Reform Act. The opinions are adopted at a public meeting, with opportunity for input from interested persons.
In addition, FPPC staff issues written advice letters as to the applicability of the Political Reform Act and regulations to a particular factual situation. Refer to the information on requesting written advice from the FPPC available on the FPPC website.

**Obtaining Information from the FPPC**

Visit the FPPC website to get copies of specific advice letters, sign up for Listserv feeds, or to be put on mailing lists.

Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-5660 – Toll-free (866) 275-3772
advice@fppc.ca.gov
Twitter: @CA_FPPC
Facebook: CA FPPC

**Website**

The FPPC website ([www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)) contains a wealth of helpful information, including:

- The Political Reform Act and its corresponding regulations
- Commission opinions
- Advice letters
- Notices of Commission meeting dates and agendas, supporting documentation for agenda items, and meeting summaries
- Forms required by the Act (also available at the FPPC offices, the Secretary of State’s Office, and many local clerks’ offices)
- Manuals, fact sheets, and useful summaries of the law
- Campaign filing schedules
- Enforcement closure letters
Additional Campaign Manuals

Additional copies of this manual, and manuals for other types of campaign committees are available from the FPPC, the Secretary of State, and many city clerks or county elections offices.

Manuals are available for:

- State candidates and officeholders, and committees primarily formed to support/oppose candidates
- Local candidates and officeholders, and committees primarily formed to support/oppose candidates
- Ballot measure committees
- General purpose recipient committees
- Major donor committees
- Slate mailer organizations

Obtaining Information Elsewhere

A subscription for regulations is available from:

Barclay’s Law Publishing
P.O. Box 2006
South San Francisco, CA 94126
(800) 888-3600

Opinions and advice letters are available from these subscription services:

Westlaw (800) 328-9352
Database: “CA-ETH”
(Advice letters from 1986 to present)

Lexis-Nexis (800) 227-9597
Database: “CA Fair Political Practices Commission”
(Advice letters from 1990 to present)
Other Resources

The Secretary of State, city clerks, and county elections office are the filing officers for campaign disclosure statements. Committee statements will be filed with the Secretary of State or a local clerk or elections office depending on whether the filer is a state candidate, a candidate running for local election, or a state or local committee.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is also responsible for issuing campaign committee identification numbers and for advice on election procedures.

(916) 653-6224
(916) 653-5045
www.sos.ca.gov

Federal Election Commission

The Federal Election Commission answers questions regarding federal elections and contributions to all candidates from national banks, national corporations, and foreign nationals.

Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463
(800) 424-9530
www.fec.gov
Franchise Tax Board

The Franchise Tax Board is responsible for responding to questions regarding 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) tax status, tax-deductibility of political contributions, audits, or any tax related questions.

(800) 852-5711 or (800) 338-0505
www.ftb.ca.gov

Internal Revenue Service

The Internal Revenue Service provides assistance regarding federal tax laws and obtaining a taxpayer identification number.

(877) 829-5500 (located in Washington, D.C.)
(800) 829-4933 (taxpayer ID number)
www.irs.gov

Federal Communications Commission

The Federal Communications Commission can answer questions regarding rates for purchasing broadcast time and equal access to broadcast media.

(888) 225-5322 (located in Washington, D.C.)
www.fcc.gov
email: fccinfo@fcc.gov

Local Ordinances

A city or county officeholder, candidate, or committee may be subject to additional reporting or other requirements such as requiring campaign reports to be filed electronically. For example, there may be contribution limits, lower itemization thresholds, or an additional pre-election statement, just to mention a few. A city or county campaign ordinance may never preempt state law.
Privacy Information Notice

Information requested on all FPPC forms is used by the FPPC to administer and enforce the Political Reform Act (Government Code Sections 81000-91014 and California Code of Regulations sections 18109-18997). All information required by these forms is mandated by the Political Reform Act. Failure to provide all of the information required by the Act is a violation subject to administrative, criminal, or civil prosecution. All reports and statements provided are public records open for public inspection and reproduction.

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice please contact the FPPC.

General Counsel
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-5660

Campaign statements are filed with the Secretary of State and city and county filing officers.

Enforcement

The Fair Political Practices Commission, the Attorney General, county district attorneys, and elected city attorneys of charter cities have enforcement authority under the Act. Failure to provide all or any part of the information required by the Political Reform Act is a violation subject to:

- An administrative enforcement proceeding before the Fair Political Practices Commission;
- A criminal misdemeanor proceeding;
- A civil action; and
- Levying of late penalties by filing officers.
Penalties for violations of the Act, including not filing campaign statements, may be imposed up to $5,000 per violation.