



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
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To: Chair Ravel and Commissioners Casher, Eskovitz, Wasserman, Wynne
From: Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division
Subject: Report of Division Activities
Date: April 9, 2013

Advice Requests

The first quarter of 2013 showed a continued increase in the use of advice email and the Division managed an average of 100 calls per day. In January, campaign committees and lobbying filers and many governmental officials filed FPPC related forms. Many of the advice requests, during February and March were related to the Form 700 filing requirements imposed on state and local governmental officials.

New Programs Status

Effective January 1, 2013, staff implemented new programs related to independent expenditure reporting forms and the certification of Form 700 electronic filing systems.

- A campaign webpage associated with the new Form 462-Verification of Principal Officers was established. The FPPC also established a dedicated email address to receive reports in connection with local elections and the California's Special Elections. Approximately 180 reports were filed in connection with 2013 local elections and the State Special Elections. The website posting will be updated every Wednesday in an effort to streamline administrative workload. The reports are posted online at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=271>.
- Over 22 programs were approved to implement Form 700 electronic filing programs. Three state agencies and 19 local agencies have been approved. As part of the agency's certification procedures we receive a user account which we then use to log on to the trial program to ensure that all information required under the law is provided to officials and that FPPC approved documents have not been altered or modified. We have had to request modifications in some of the programs in order to meet FPPC standards.

Educational Resources

- Cynthia Fisher prepared over 35 state and local filing schedules that serve as the official record for campaign committee filing deadlines. It appears that there will be an election almost every week in California as localities address many tax, recall and special candidate elections.

- Cynthia Jones revised the Agency Appointment (Form 806) FAQs to address recent amendments to Reg. 18705.5 regarding incumbent appointments, and also oversaw the implementation of a new Excel format for agencies using Form 806. An Interested Persons meeting will likely be scheduled in April for public review of the form amendments.
- Barbara Smith revised the ad disclosure charts to comply with new legislative and regulatory changes concerning mandatory identification on all independent expenditure communications.
- New list serve notification groups were established for individuals seeking current updates on FPPC campaign filing schedules and educational workshops and webinars. We have received very positive feedback.

Form 700- Statement of Economic Interests

The staff is processing the over 15,000 Form 700s that are received this time of year. The chief focus is to ensure that those individuals that are required to file do so. This year we will also be posting statements for judges, board of supervisors and city council members. Statements for statewide constitutional officers and members of the Legislature are currently posted.

Educational Presentations

Delegation Presentations

Division Chief, Lynda Cassady made two presentations to foreign delegations; China and Haiti.

Campaign Workshops

In response to requests for candidate and treasurer training in connection with the March 5, 2013, election, Alex Castillo traveled to Redondo Beach and Pasadena to conduct workshops to well-attended audiences. Sarah Olson also provided well-received training to campaign filing officers in Redondo Beach.

Form 700 Filing Officers

Dixie Howard and Cyndi Glaser provided training to over 80 state and local filing officers who administer Form 700s at four workshops in the FPPC's offices in February and March.

Conflict-of-Interest Code Amendments

Ivy Branaman provided training to state agency officials who administer conflict-of-interest code amendments to over 50 attendees at two workshops and a webinar in the FPPC's offices in February and March.

Webinar Training

- Sarah Olson provided webinar training to over 70 state agency officials who administer conflict-of-interest code amendments on February 6.

- Our webinar programs are exceeding our expectations and we are planning to increase the variety of topics that can be addressed.

Filing Officer Outreaches

Staff continues to travel with a focus on providing outreach training to counties who administer campaign statements and Form 700s. This in-house assistance is extremely beneficial as it is customized to meet each agency's unique training needs. Alex Castillo provided training on campaign filing officer duties and Cynthia Fisher provided training on Form 700 filing officer duties in Amador County. Alex Castillo provided campaign filing officer training to officials in Colusa County. Cynthia Fisher provided training to staff at the state departments of Alcohol & Drug Programs and Housing and Community Development as well as charter school filing officers in Placer County.

Conflict-of-Interest Codes

An update to the FPPC conflict-of-interest code is currently being circulated for comment. Alex Castillo is coordinating the amendment.

Approved amendments and adoptions to conflict-of-interest codes include:

State Agencies:

Office of Legislative Counsel

Multi-County Agencies:

Access Services Incorporated (ASI)

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

