



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

To: Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz, Casher, Wasserman, Wynne
From: Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division
Subject: Report of Division Activities
Date: August 5, 2013

Advice Requests

July was a very busy month for advice as all state and local candidates, committees and lobbying filers must file reports on or before July 31, 2013. In general, TAD consultant's time was devoted almost exclusively on advice questions.

Email advice requests January – July: 3,373
Telephone advice requests January – July: 7,055

Activities

- Local Ethics Agency Meeting. The Commission's June meeting with local ethics agency staff was an informative session that covered a variety of common issues and topics. Pending legislation, campaign practices, educational programs and electronic filing issues were some of the topics discussed in an informal and open dialogue.
- Campaign Filing Schedules: Special elections in the fall of 2013 required another series of filing schedules. Staff also posted the filing schedules for the state and local primary elections in June 2014. Because of the increase in committees primarily formed for candidates that make independent expenditures, a separate filing schedule to address the unique filing requirements is now available.

Dixie Howard and I also collaborated with the Secretary of State's Office in reviewing the agency's 2014 June Primary and November General Election calendars concerning PRA content.

- Cyndi Glaser prepared and posted [summary reports](#) on the top out-of-state donors of \$10,000 or more to committees making independent expenditures in 2013 special state candidate elections. The Senate District 16 election has triggered the majority of IE spending this year.
- The first committee meeting to address campaign reporting issues relating to general purpose committees was held. Staff received feedback that will help in writing the campaign manual. This manual covers a wide breath of committees active in CA politics and consequently will be a very important instructional document. Committee members include representatives from the Franchise Tax Board, Common Cause, Political Attorney Association, City Clerks Association, Professional Treasurers Association as well as enforcement and technical assistance staff.
- Staff spent a significant amount of time working with IT staff in preparing the Request for Information documents related to electronic filing of the Form 700 and the Form 462.

Form 700- Statement of Economic Interests

- Form 700 Website Posting: Form 700s for judges are expected to be posted by the end of August. The forms are currently being reviewed to ensure redaction requests are properly completed. Form 700s for city council members are expected to be posted in September.
- Form 700 Requests: Since the first of the year, the SEI unit has filled public requests for 1,500 SEIs which resulted in almost 9,000 pages being scanned or copied.

Seminars

- Political Reform Consultant Sarah Olson made a presentation to approximately 600 staff members at the State Department of Toxic Substances Control headquarters in Sacramento. The presentation was also simulcast to several field offices. The presentation covered an overview of gift, travel and conflict of interest rules and Form 700 reporting.
- At the Association of County Clerks and Election Officials, Managers Dixie Howard and Trish Mayer made a comprehensive presentation on proposed 2013 legislation; campaign and Form 700 updates; gift and travel rules; the Form 800 series; and Form 700 reporting rules. Over 75 people attended.

Webinar Training

Consultants Cynthia Jones, Sarah Olson, Ivy Branaman and Cynthia Fisher began a series of one-hour webinar trainings geared towards political party treasurers; local PAC treasurers; candidates and treasurers. The trainings provide the public another resource to learn about the various PRA filing requirements. Attendance averaged 30 and it appears a significant number of representatives from central committees participated.

We plan to schedule several webinars each month. Generally, two political reform consultants present the program. An IT staff member is also on hand in case of technical difficulties. Persons interested in receiving notifications for upcoming training sessions may sign up [here](#).

Filing Officer Outreaches

Consultant Cyndi Glaser provided training to officials at the Workforce Investment Board on performing administrative duties for Form 700s. Consultants Alex Castillo and Barbara Smith provided training to Franchise Tax Board officials on performing Form 700 filing officer duties and amending their conflict of interest code. Consultant Cynthia Fisher provided training to Placer County officials on performing Form 700 filing officer duties.

Conflict of Interest Code Review

Approved amendments and adoptions to conflict of interest codes include:

State Agencies

California Health and Human Services
Office of Statewide Health Planning and
Development
Department of Insurance

Multi-County Agencies

Delta-Mendota Canal Contractors Authority
Oxford Preparatory Academy
Fall River Joint Unified School District
Southern California Special Education Charter