



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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To: Chair Remke and Commissioners Casher, Eskovitz, Wasserman, and Wynne

From: Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division

Subject: Report of Division Activities

Date: July 3, 2014

Advice Requests

We have continued to experience a higher amount of phone and email advice requests due to ongoing elections and the requirement that local government agencies must review their conflict of interest codes this year. An analysis of the number of email advice requests reveals that the amount of emails has doubled each month during 2014 over those received in 2013.

Phone counts January – June: 6,479

Email counts January – June: 5,492

Form 700- Statement of Economic Interests

We anticipate posting over 2,500 statements for Mayors and City Councilmembers in the coming weeks. Staff continues to address over 400 annual SEIs that were not filed on time. In addition, SEI staff is preparing to receive several hundred candidate Form 700s (mostly individuals seeking a city council election) that will be filed in August in connection with the November election. We have received requests for copies of close to 1,900 Form 700s since January 1.

Form 700-Approvals of Electronic Filing Systems

Staff has approved 68 programs to date and anticipate the number of certification submittals significantly increase beginning early fall. Effective July 1, 2014, the limited term position dedicated to approving the E-filing systems ended. A political reform consultant will assume additional duties.

SB 27 Implementation

Consultant Tara Stock prepared the draft fact sheet explaining the new reporting requirements for multi-purpose committees. Ms. Stock is also preparing form instructions and the draft form for committees, subject to SB 27 reporting of top ten contributors. Ms. Stock has worked on this project full time and has assisted in drafting the regulations for the July meeting. An Interested Persons Meeting on the form instructions and form for top contributor reporting is scheduled for July 21st. I will present the Top 10 Contributor Form along with new campaign reporting instructions to the Commission at its August meeting.

Seminars and Workshops

Manager Dixie Howard presented a workshop to local government agency staff who administer conflict of interest code amendments. There was active participation among attendees who had many relevant questions concerning which positions should be designated in a code and what level of disclosure to assign to those positions. Program Analyst Rene Robertson conducted an on-site outreach for staff who are performing Form 700 filing officer duties for FI\$Cal, a state agency charged with oversight of a business transformation project.

Webinar Training

Two webinars were conducted in June by Consultant Ivy Branaman for local agency staff who need assistance in amending their conflict of interest codes. There was a high level of interest in these webinars since many agencies need to amend their conflict of interest codes this year, and attendance averaged 40 participants at each session. Due to popular demand, two additional conflict of interest code webinars will be conducted in July. In August and September, webinars will be conducted for all campaign treasurers on basic rules (e.g. ad disclaimer requirements, fundraising issues, general prohibitions), and a webinar will be conducted for political party treasurers.

Staff is developing webinars for local committees on campaign reporting that will be posted on our website in the coming months. This will provide local candidates and PACs a valuable resource available at all times that explains the campaign reporting rules in a 30 minute presentation.

Conflict of Interest Code Biennial Notices

Every local government agency in California is required to review its conflict of interest code in 2014 and submit a notice by October 1, 2014, to its code reviewing body on whether the code needs to be amended. Information on this requirement has been sent and posted on the FPPC website for multi-county agencies, as well as to counties and cities who must administer this requirement.

Conflict-of-Interest Codes

The chart below illustrates the number of state and multi county agency conflict of interest codes in which the Division has oversight responsibility, and the status of codes under various stages of review and approved from January 1 through June 30. Staff expects a significant number of amendments to be submitted in October and November because multi-county agencies must update their codes for changes.

Conflict of Interest Codes 2014 Year-to-Date Workload	
State Codes	200
State Codes Under Review	60
State Code Approvals	8
Multi-County Codes	600
Multi-County Codes Under Review	110
Multi-County Code Approvals	15

The following conflict of interest code amendments and adoption were approved since my last report.

State Agencies:

Public Health Services

Multi-County Agencies:

Local Agency Workers' Compensation Excess JPA

The chart below provides an overview of the division's workload from January 1 through June 30 this year. The Division not only provides educational assistance, but devotes significant resources to posting detailed information from forms filed with the Commission. These include reports from independent expenditure committees, local and state agencies that distribute tickets, state officials that receive behested payments and information related to agency travel payments.

2014 Year-to-Date Workload

Filing Schedules Prepared for 2014 elections	50
Seminars/Webinars/Outreach	40
Special Presentations	10
Campaign Form 462- IE Verification	500
Form 801 – Payments to Agencies	40
Form 802 – Agency Ticket Distributions	1,200
Form 803 – Behested Payment Reports	175