

To: Fair Political Practices Commission, chairman Remke, et al.

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FAIR POLITICAL
PRACTICES COMMISSION
Sirs,

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I strongly oppose changing the limits on contributions allowed by other candidates to the campaign of an office holder who is the subject of a recall campaign or election. I support maintaining the same limits on contributions, from other candidates and their campaign committees to the committees or officials who are the subject of a recall effort, as those limits are set for regular (general and scheduled) elections, those limits being \$4400.

I am a Democrat, but not a tax and spend Democrat, and I oppose efforts to increase taxes without a 2/3's approval of the voters and / or the Legislature. If, as in this instance, Representative Newman has angered his political base sufficiently to rouse the public to ask for a recall election, this should be allowed to proceed without the heavy handed interference of the FPPC.

In reading your mission statement, I find the FPPC is charged with being an impartial, and fair overseer of California election practices. Your recently contemplated action to change recall contribution limits at the behest of one candidates' request is deeply troubling and bespeaks of bias and prejudice.

Further, your proceedings are to be held in open session and to this point the recent closed-door meeting between Commissioner Harke and a lawyer representing Senate Democrats is unethical, for which action I believe Commissioner Harke should be relieved of duty.

If the FPPC loses its impartiality it becomes a tainted and ineffectual facade of fairness and therefore, itself should be disbanded and replaced by a body or entity or process that can maintain objectivity and is not merely a pawn of either or any political party.

Please do not change the contribution limits proposed by the Democratic party or any particular candidate or official, whether they be the subject of a recall effort or not.

A Concerned Citizen,
James M. Bittner