



## FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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**To:** Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz, Garrett, Montgomery and Rotunda  
**From:** Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division  
**Subject:** Report of Division Activities  
**Date:** November 26, 2012

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### **Statements of Economic Interests – Judges**

In November, staff posted the annual Form 700s submitted by judges. Considerable time was spent by both TAD and Administrative staff to ensure that the provisions of newly-adopted Regulation 18313.6 relative to redacting personal information on the Form 700 before website posting was done. In addition, the agency's joint project with Captricity provides the public a more accessible and meaningful search function.

### **Advice Requests**

Staff continued to field up to 200 phone calls a day prior to the November election. The Secretary of State's Office sent out correspondence after the election concerning the new \$50 campaign committee fee, which also resulted in a surge of phone calls. Requests for email advice increased threefold over the same timeframe in 2011. To address last-minute reporting questions in connection with filing deadlines prior to the November election, staff provided phone assistance on Friday, October 5.

### **Other Projects**

Division Chief Lynda Cassady worked with Administrative Chief, Tina Bass, in submitting several workload requests to Finance in response to several legislative bills that will increase workload for the Division.

A new fact sheet was quickly developed and posted on our website to inform the regulated community about the new \$50 campaign committee fee, and the campaign contribution/voluntary expenditure limits fact sheet has been updated for posting immediately after the December commission meeting.

State and local campaign filing schedules for filing deadlines in 2013 have been posted on our website.

### **Election Reports**

Staff devoted over 400 hours working on ballot measure and independent expenditure reports. These reports provide detailed information that is widely used by the press and other interested groups, and because of its timeliness and accuracy, the FPPC is regarded the lead authority on California campaign reporting.

### **Campaign Forms**

After the election, staff quickly moved to revise and design campaign forms to conform to legislative changes in the law as well as proposed regulatory changes. An Interested Persons meeting was held on November 13, 2013. A separate memorandum summarizes the new campaign disclosure form updates, including the newly proposed Form 462 that requires principal officers to verify that independent expenditures are not coordinated with candidate or measure committees.

### **Statement of Economic Interests**

A separate memorandum on the December agenda identifies the changes in the form and instructions relative to the Statement of Economic Interests, Form 700. Staff posted the changes on the Interested Persons webpage and incorporated comments made by the public.

### **Seminars and Outreaches**

Since our last report, staff has been extremely busy making training presentations to candidates and treasurers and local filing officers in anticipation of the November election. In October, staff rolled out our first-ever webinar training to assist local PACs with their unique reporting requirements. In November, Division Chief Lynda Cassady testified in a grand jury hearing in Southern California and made a presentation to the California Political Treasurer's Association. Manager Trish Mayer assisted in providing technical expertise during a Hack-a-Thon program in San Francisco.

#### New Webinar Training

Four customized training sessions were presented at various times to local PACs in connection with the filing deadlines for the November election. These well-received webinar presentations were made by Political Reform Consultants Sarah Olson and Ivy Branaman. The division plans to make webinar presentations to filing officers, staff who administer conflict-of-interest codes, and local PACs on a regular basis in 2013. The webinar training serves to maximize our training efforts as we are able to reach out to the regulated community in rural areas and even in other states.

#### Candidate/Treasure Training

Staff continued to receive high ratings on the last of the candidate/treasurer presentations made during September, and were complimented on the usefulness of the information provided. "Speakers were very prepared, and made an excellent presentation" was the type of frequent comment received on their evaluation forms. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Jones made a standing room only candidate/treasurer presentation in Orange County, and Political Reform Consultant Alex Castillo made a presentation to candidates and treasurers in Sacramento. Upcoming candidate/treasurer workshops are scheduled in Redondo Beach and in Pasadena in connection with the March 2013 elections.

#### Filing Officer Training and Outreaches

Political Reform Consultant Alex Castillo provided campaign filing officer training in Solano County and a nuts and bolts presentation in Brea for Southern California Clerks. Manager Trish Mayer made a presentation to Southern California Clerks in Brea on administering the Form 700. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Jones gave a workshop on amending conflict-of-interest codes to a large audience in Orange County. Political Reform Consultant Ivy Branaman gave outreach presentations to staff from the Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board, the Department of

General Services, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and Sonoma County on Form 700 administrative duties, and to staff from Amador County on amending conflict-of-interest codes. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Fisher provided Form 700 filing officer training to staff from the High Speed Rail Commission. Political Reform Consultant Barbara Smith provided training to staff from the Oakley City Clerk's Office on their campaign filing officer duties. Additional outreach training is scheduled in December for state agency filing officers.

**Conflict-of-Interest Codes**

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

State Agencies:

Office of Real Estate Appraisers  
University of California Hastings College of Law

Abolished Agencies:

California Iceberg Lettuce Commission  
California Kiwifruit Commission  
California Tomato Commission  
California Pistachio Commission

Multi-County Agencies:

Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications Systems (BAYRICS) Authority  
Bay Area Special Education Joint Powers Authority  
California Van Pool Authority  
Desert Sands Public Charter School  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Public Agency Coalition Enterprise  
Red Bluff Joint Union High School District  
San Juan Water District  
San Luis Water District  
Sierra Sacramento Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Southern California Schools Employee Benefits Association  
Southern California Schools Risk Management Association