



(Approved August 21, 2025)
CALIFORNIA FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF HEARING, Public Session
Thursday, June 19, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Adam E. Silver, Commissioner Alf W. Brandt, and Commissioner E. Dotson Wilson

Executive Staff Present:

Galena West, Executive Director
Dave Bainbridge, General Counsel
Jue Wang, PhD, Chief of Administration
Lindsey Nakano, Senior FPPC Legislative Counsel
Shery Yang, Communications Director

Call to Order.

Chair Silver called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

1. Public Comments for items not on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Laurie Alderman of the City of Cotati commented on concerns of political process in her jurisdiction. George Barich, Former City Council Member of Cotati, commented on a closed case and the FPPC complaint form. A third public commenter expressed frustration in the FPPC's process. Chair Adam Silver clarified the Commission is open to feedback regarding closed cases, but there are concerns hearing issues relating to ongoing cases due to possible bias.

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: To approve the May 2025 Meeting Minutes. Moved by Commissioner Brandt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion passed 3-0.

3-6. Consent Calendar

- 3. In the Matter of Lysa Ray and Marc Steinorth for Supervisor 2018, FPPC Nos. 19/1802 & 20/1120.**
- 4. In the Matter of Jess E. Benton; FPPC Case No. 20/777.**
- 5. In the Matter of Reverge Anselmo; FPPC No. 22/402.**
- 6. In the Matter of Terrance Slatic; FPPC 22/617.**

No items were pulled. Chair Silver praised the Enforcement Team for focusing on more serious violations. Commissioner Alf Brandt appreciated all the information provided by the Enforcement Team to fully understand the intent behind each violation.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Calendar. Moved by Chair Silver, seconded by Commissioner Brandt. The motion passed 3-0.

7-8. Pre-Notice Defaults

- 7. In the Matter of Committee to Re-Elect Michael Minnix and Michael Minnix; FPPC Nos. 20/817 & 20/998.**

Assistant Chief of Enforcement Angela Brereton stated there has been no contact from Mr. Minnix despite numerous attempts. Chair Silver asked if Mr. Minnix is still in office and Ms. Brereton confirmed that he is. Commissioner Brandt asked if Enforcement has been in contact with the agency Mr. Minnix serves. Ms. Brereton stated Enforcement typically does not engage with the agency as the responsibility is on the office holder, candidate, committee, or treasurer – not the agency itself. Commissioner Wilson confirmed with Ms.

Brereton that Mr. Minnix cannot claim he did not receive proper notice as Enforcement went through all the proper steps required by law and FPPC internal procedures of notifying him. Executive Director Galena West emphasized this is a pre-notice of default which is a process we created in an attempt to get a response from individuals to come to a settlement before cases proceed to default. Chair Silver stated this process is meant to give respondents ample notification regarding the matter. Commissioner Wilson stated countless hours and staff resources are expended on these cases, which should be taken into account as this matter moves forward.

8. In the Matter of Brown for Bassett School Board Member 2024 and Samuel Brown, FPPC No. 24/1046.

Commissioner Brandt asked how far back the pre-election campaign statements were dated and Ms. Brereton answered 2024 for last year's election. This case was related to the proactive pre-election outreach program.

9-14. General Items

9. In re: Winuk Opinion.

Senior Commission Counsel Kevin Cornwall presented the item. Kaufman Legal Group Attorney Mr. Gary Winuk represented the City Manager for the City of Palo Alto in this matter. Mr. Winuk requested the Commission proceed with two items: 1) To find Mr. Shikada does not have a financial interest in Stanford University and 2) To direct staff to provide options to the Commission on adopting a brightline standard for non-profit corporations. Chair Silver thanked Mr. Winuk for his argument highlighting Mr. Winuk's second item that it is ideal to have a roadmap for the regulated community to get to

compliance. Chair Silver voiced concern about adopting a general regulation for non-profit entities as the law governing nonprofits is complex. He also solicited feedback from the non-profit community regarding their concerns and what impact this could have on their operations. Commissioner Brandt stated he can see the relationship between both entities if Stanford University has control to withdraw or appoint the entire board. Commissioner Wilson emphasized the complexities and differences between non-profit and for-profit organizations. He commended Mr. Shikada for coming forward to seek an opinion in this matter. Mr. Shikada gave comment. Chair Silver suggested providing the Legal Division with direction for two drafts. Mr. Bainbridge clarified the Chair's direction as requesting that staff prepare two versions of a Commission Opinion to be considered by the Commission at its next meeting. Both versions should conclude that Stanford University constitutes a source of income to City Manager Shikada based on its relationship with SHC, while noting that changes in SHC bylaws could alter this conclusion. The changes identified in Versions 1 and 2 are that Stanford University cannot remove SHC Board members and can only remove them for cause, respectively. For the second item on the potential for a regulation, Chair Silver emphasized the need to solicit feedback from the regulated community to see if this is an area that should be pursued.

10. Pre-Notice Discussion of Proposed Adoption of Regulation 18430.1 and Amendments to Regulation 18421.3 and 18401, Limitations on Prepaid Cards and Recordkeeping Requirements for Contract Vendors.

Senior Commission Counsel Zachary Norton presented the item. Chair Silver thanked Enforcement staff for flagging this issue and creating a memo as the basis of this regulation.. Chair Silver suggested including a prohibition of processing contributions through third-party payment processors using foreign IP addresses.

11. Public Outreach and Technology Committee Update.

Executive Fellow Eva Hartman presented the item. Commissioner Wilson highlighted that the Fellowship Program was initially only the Assembly and Senate Programs. It was later expanded to include the Executive and Judicial Fellows where it went from 12 to 18 Fellows per program back in the 1990s. Chair Silver asked where the proceeding is available to be watched and Ms. Hartman stated it can be viewed on the FPPC's YouTube channel. Chair Silver thanked the regulated community for their feedback and the participants who joined. Commissioner Wilson stated the presentations were informative and recommended for anyone who is interested to watch the video.

12. Legislative Update.

Senior FPPC Legislative Counsel Lindsey Nakano presented the item.

13. Executive Staff Reports.

Ms. Brereton and Mr. Burton presented the Enforcement Division Staff Report as submitted. Chair Silver complimented the Enforcement and Legal Division on the large number of probable cause proceedings that occurred. Commissioner Wilson seconded that comment. Senior Management Auditor Gabrielle Gilmore presented the Audits and Assistance Division Staff Report as submitted.

Mr. Bainbridge presented the Legal Division Staff Report as submitted.

Chief of Administration and Technology Dr. Jue Wang presented the Administration and Technology Division Report as submitted. Chair Silver highlighted the update that previously the FPPC only posted Form 700s for elected officials, but now it has been expanded to all

87200 filers who file with the agency. Chair Silver stated he met with officials from the County of Ventura and County of Los Angeles and they appreciated the online data being available and increasing transparency for the people of California.

Director West highlighted the retirement of Senior Commission Counsel Jack Woodside in the Legal Division who was with the FPPC for 12 years.

14. Commissioner Comments and Proposed Future Agenda Items.

No comments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Davina Vo
Commission Assistant
Approved August 21, 2025

Adam E. Silver, Chair
Fair Political Practices Commission