## News from the FPPC



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## Legislative Candidates' Economic Disclosure Forms Available Online

The Statements of Economic Interests (SEI or Form 700) filed by non-incumbent candidates for State Senate and State Assembly running in the November election are now available on the Commission's website. Incumbent legislators were required to file annual SEIs by March 1, 2012, which were immediately posted on the Commission's website – an additional "candidate SEI" was not required to be filed.

Starting in 2010, the Commission began posting on its website SEIs filed by legislators, Constitutional officers, the Insurance Commissioner, and County Supervisors. This year, the postings were expanded to include SEIs filed by City Council Members and the Commissioners of the Fair Political Practices Commission. SEIs filed by all Judges within the State will be posted soon.

"This is part of the Commission's continued efforts to make public information easily accessible," said the Commission's Chair Ann Ravel. "We understand that information about a public official's financial interests must be disclosed in a way that is meaningful."

Statements of Economic Interests are an important means for the officials and candidates that file them, the media, and the public to help determine where potential conflicts of interest may exist. The state mandated forms include information about the sources of an official's or candidate's income, investments, business positions, real property holdings and gifts. A conflict arises when an official makes or participates in making a governmental decision that impacts his or her economic interests – merely reporting an economic interest is not a conflict in itself.

Due to privacy and security concerns, the SEIs posted on the Commission's website have the address, telephone and signature blocks redacted. To view the SEIs, <u>click here.</u>

In addition, the Commission's report of major donors of \$10,000 or more to the November 2012 State ballot measures was updated today. To view the report, <u>click</u> here.