

APPENDIX - ABOUT THE POLITICAL REFORM ACT / HOW TO GET HELP

The Political Reform Act of 1974

The Political Reform Act (the “Act”) was a voter-approved initiative on the 1974 primary election ballot. One of the major provisions of the Act requires the truthful and accurate disclosure of campaign and lobbying activities.

The Fair Political Practices Commission

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is the independent, nonpartisan state agency authorized to implement, interpret, and enforce the provisions of the Political Reform Act. A full-time chair appointed by the Governor, and four part-time commissioners, one each appointed by the Controller, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Governor comprise the Commission. Each member serves a four-year term and no more than three members may be from the same political party. FPPC staff is composed of five divisions: Executive, Administration, Enforcement, Legal, and Technical Assistance.

Fair Political Practices Commission

428 J Street, Suite 620

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 322-5660 – Toll-free (866) 275-3772

advice@fppc.ca.gov

Twitter: [@CA_FPPC](https://twitter.com/CA_FPPC)

Facebook: CA FPPC

Website

The FPPC website (www.fppc.ca.gov) contains a wealth of helpful information, including:

- The Political Reform Act and its corresponding regulations
- Commission opinions
- Advice letters
- Notices of Commission meeting dates and agendas, supporting documentation for agenda items, and meeting summaries
- Forms required by the Political Reform Act (also available at the FPPC office, the Secretary of State's Office, and many local clerks' offices)
- Manuals, fact sheets, and useful summaries of the law
- Campaign filing schedules
- Enforcement closure letters

Governing Statutes and Regulations

The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000-91015.

Regulations interpreting the Political Reform Act are located at Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, beginning at Section 18109.

Opinions and Advice Letters

The FPPC periodically issues opinions interpreting provisions of the Political Reform Act. The Commission adopts the opinions at a public meeting, with opportunity for input from interested persons.

In addition, FPPC staff issues written advice letters as to the applicability of the Political Reform Act and regulations to a particular factual situation. Advice letters are available on the FPPC website.

Other Resources

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the filing officer for lobbying disclosure

statements: www.sos.ca.gov.

Legislative Ethics Committees

The Assembly Legislative Ethics Committee and the Senate Committee on Legislative Ethics conduct lobbyist ethics training workshops. To obtain information regarding the course schedule, contact these ethics committees.

Local/Judicial/Federal Lobbying Requirements

The Act does not govern lobbying activity conducted at the city, county, judicial, or federal levels. To determine what, if any, lobbying disclosure requirements are in effect at the local, judicial, or federal level, contact the specific agency in question.

Privacy Information Notice

Information requested on all FPPC forms is used by the FPPC to administer and enforce the Political Reform Act (Government Code Sections 81000-91015 and California Code of Regulations sections 18109-18997). All information required by these forms is mandated by the Political Reform Act. Failure to provide all of the information the Act requires is a violation subject to administrative, criminal, or civil prosecution. All reports and statements provided are public records open for public inspection and reproduction.

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice please contact the FPPC.

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Enforcement

The Fair Political Practices Commission, the Attorney General, county district attorneys, and elected city attorneys of charter cities

have enforcement authority under the Act. Penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation may be imposed for violating the Act. Failure to provide information is a violation subject to: an administrative enforcement proceeding before the Fair Political Practices Commission, a criminal misdemeanor proceeding or a civil action. The Secretary of State may impose late filing penalties. Enforcement summaries are available on the Commission's website.