



EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

October 15, 2026 Commission Hearing

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I. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

STAFF: KENDALL L.D. BONEBRAKE, CHIEF OF ENFORCEMENT

A. Overview

During the period of September 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, the Enforcement Division received the following complaints and referrals:

	Sworn	Non-Sworn	Anonymous	Referrals
Number Received	68	19	164	179

For the month of September, more time to respond beyond the 14-day statutory period was needed for approximately 10 sworn complaints.

Additionally, for the month of September, the Enforcement Division opened 124 cases, rejected 137 complaints and referrals, and closed a total of 84 cases including:

- 46 warning letters – statement of economic interests violations (39) and campaign violations (7);
- 20 no action closure letters: PREP completed –statement of economic interests violations (13), and campaign violations (7);
- 5 no action closure letters alleging – statement of economic interests violations (5);
- 10 approved stipulations from the September Commission Meeting;
- 3 administrative terminations;

The Division had a total of 1,019 cases in various stages of resolution at the time of the September Monthly Report and currently has approximately 1,059 cases in various stages of resolution, including the 4 streamline cases and 2 mainline cases before the Commission as listed in the October Agenda. Net case openings since the last monthly report totaled 40.

B. Annual Statistics

The following is a chart that details the annual statistics for enforcement complaints, referrals and cases over the past five years. The statistics show a marked increase in complaints during election years. 2025 stands out with an increase in complaints received and a decrease in referrals received compared to other non-election years.

	Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	Complaints Received	606	1,379	653	1,456	910

2	Complaints Processed	820	1,050	916	1,334	902
3	Referrals Received	1,751	1,724	1,971	1,393	1,518
4	Referrals Processed	1,539	1,183	1,441	2,171	1,729
5	Total Complaints and Referrals Received	2,357	3,103	2,624	2,849	2,428
6	Cases opened	1,185	990	831	1,403	1,302
7	Cases closed ³	1,058	1,075	1,295	1,536	1,268
8	Cases with penalties ¹	269	161	98	149	97
	a Streamlines	234	142	79	117	73
	b Mainlines	32	14	17	25	20
	c Defaults	3	5	2	7	3
9	Total fines imposed	\$472,248	\$617,548	\$376,531	\$802,238	\$543,539
10	Warning letters issued	475	681	813	847	741
11	Administrative terminations	59	53	87	80	40
12	Cases closed with violations found ²	803	895	998	1,076	878
13	Advisory letters issued	16	8	15	12	3
14	No action closure letters	237	217	296	469	383
	a PREP Completed	--	39	86	261	263

C. 2025-2026 Quarterly Caseload Summary

The following is a chart that compares the number of cases from given years at the end of each quarter during 2025 and 2026. Enforcement has successfully focused on the resolution of older cases.

¹ Total for lines 8a, 8b, and 8c.

² Total for lines 8, 10, and 11.

³ Total cases closed includes Commission approved cases from the previous year and Commission approved administrative judgements. It does not include Commission approved cases not yet closed.

	September 2025	December 2025	March 2026	June 2026	September 2026	Difference in Existing Caseload Overall
2018	1	1	1	1	1	-0
2019	8	6	5	4	4	-4
2020	11	9	5	3	1	-10
2021	33	30	25	17	13	-20
2022	91	83	79	67	63	-28
2023	148	133	120	113	102	-46
2024	270	251	242	220	216	-54
2025	--	--	301	265	252	-49

D. Presentations

None.

E. Unexecuted Streamline Stipulations

Streamline penalty stipulations are approved by the Chief of Enforcement and reported to the Commission for discussion only before they are executed. The following streamline stipulations are presented for that purpose. After the close of the hearing, the Chief of Enforcement may execute all or any of the streamline penalty stipulations, at the Chief's discretion per Regulation 18360.3.

Campaign Late Filer/Reporter

In the Matter of Fred Shorett for City Council 2022 and Fred Shorett; FPPC No. 25/354.

Staff: Jaleena Evans, Commission Counsel. This matter arose from an audit performed by the Audit Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission. Fred Shorett was a successful candidate for San Bernardino City Council Ward 4 in the June 7, 2022 Primary Election. Fred Shorett for City Council 2022 was Shorett's candidate-controlled committee, and Shorett served as the Committee's treasurer. The Committee and Shorett failed to timely report accrued expenses on three campaign statements, in violation of Government Code Section 84211 (3 counts). **Total Penalty: \$976 (Tiers One and Two).**

Statement of Economic Interests Late Filer/Reporter

In the Matter of Jerome Jackson; FPPC No. 26/187. Staff: Stephanie Meaglia, Commission Counsel. Jerome Jackson, as a Planning Commissioner for the City of San Pablo, failed to timely file the 2024 and 2025 Annual Statements of Economic Interests, in violation of Government Code Section 87203 (2 counts). **Total Penalty: \$400 (Tier One).**

In the Matter of Tamara Vides; FPPC No. 26/107. Staff: Laura Columbel, Senior Commission Counsel. Tamara Vides, as a member of the Operations Board of Directors for the Central Coast

Community Energy Authority, failed to timely file an Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Government Code Section 87300 (1 count). **Total Penalty: \$300 (Tier One).**

In the Matter of Nick Richardson; FPPC No. 26/501. Staff: Angela Brereton, Assistant Chief of Enforcement and Kimberly Rawnsley, Legal Analyst. Nick Richardson, as a Board Member for the San Joaquin River Conservancy, failed to timely file an Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Government Code Section 87300 (1 count). **Total Penalty: \$200 (Tier One).**

II. AUDITS & ASSISTANCE DIVISION

STAFF: SHRDHA SHAH, CHIEF OF AUDITS & ASSISTANCE

Audits are conducted per Government Code sections 90000 - 90008 of the Political Reform Act (the Act). The Act requires full disclosure of receipts and expenditures of candidates and committees and disclosure of the finances of lobbyists. The purpose of the audits is to determine the level of compliance of the auditees with the Act. The opinions expressed in the audit report reflect the level of compliance with the Act. The FPPC is not responsible for the contents of the candidate's documents. Audit reports are then submitted to the Enforcement Division for further review.

A. Overview

The audit reports prepared by the FPPC summarize findings with respect to the filer's conformity with the disclosure and recordkeeping requirements of the Political Reform Act. Copies of audit reports are always sent to the auditees and those included in the audit report (such as the prior treasurer, current treasurer, and/or their representatives). These reports are public documents.

B. Current Period Updates

During the period September 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026, the Audits and Assistance Division adopted one audit report with no findings. Currently, the team has 38 audits in progress at various stages, including fieldwork, post-fieldwork, and quality review.

Details of the audit report adopted are as follows:

1. Chen for Controller 2022 (ID# 1439261)

- No findings noted.

III. LEGAL DIVISION

STAFF: DAVE BAINBRIDGE, GENERAL COUNSEL

A. Pending Litigation

City of Norco v. FPPC, Superior Court, County of Sacramento, Case No. 25WM000226. Petitioner City of Norco (City) filed a petition for writ of mandate on December 18, 2025 challenging the Commission's decision finding that the City violated the Act by failing to disclose campaign expenditures for a City ballot measure. The City seeks to set aside the Commission's decision, including the \$20,000 administrative penalty. The Attorney General is representing the Commission. The FPPC filed an answer on March 26, 2026. The court has not set a hearing date.

B. Outreach and Training

Webinars & Workshops

- September 16, the FPPC presented a Completing Campaign Forms 460/497 webinar. Political Reform Consultants Stephen Hernandez and Alexandra Miner, presented. 47 people attended.
- September 29, the FPPC presented a Behested Payments (Form 803) webinar. Education & External Affairs Unit Manager, Chloe Hackert, presented. 16 people attended.
- September 30, the FPPC presented a Candidate/Treasurer webinar. Political Reform Consultants Kathryn Ito and Christian Durham, presented. 11 people attended.

Scheduled Webinars & Workshops

- October 7, the FPPC is presenting a Candidate/Treasurer webinar.
- October 13, the FPPC is presenting a Campaign Filing Officer webinar.
- October 14, the FPPC is presenting a Completing Campaign Forms 460/497 webinar.
- October 27, the FPPC is presenting a Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committees webinar.

Video Tutorials

Commission video tutorials were accessed 656 times in September. Form 700 videos were accessed 194 times, the Candidate/Treasurer video was accessed 237 times, the filing officer videos were accessed 56 times, the Behested Payments (Form 803) video was accessed 22 times, and the How to File a Form 410 – For Local Candidate-Controlled Committees video was accessed 147 times.

C. New and Updated Educational Resources

- New Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committees Seminar

D. Political Reform Education Program (PREP):

Course	Referrals Received	Completions	Failures to Complete	Current Enrollments	Withdrawals
Statement of Economic Interests Course	24	22	2	38	0
Campaign Course for Local Candidates and Candidate-Controlled Committees	6	5	0	6	0
Campaign Course for State Candidates and Candidate-Controlled Committees	1	0	0	2	0
Campaign Course for Independent Expenditure and Major Donor Committees	0	1	0	0	0
Campaign Course for General Purpose and Primarily Formed Committees	1	0	0	1	0
Advertisement Course for Candidates and Candidate-Controlled Committees	0	2	0	2	0

E. Advice

The [September Advice Letter Report](https://www.fppc.ca.gov/the-law/advice-letters-and-commission-opinions/advice-letter-reports/) is available on the FPPC website at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/the-law/advice-letters-and-commission-opinions/advice-letter-reports/>.

In September, the Legal Division responded to the following requests for advice:

- **Education:** The Education unit responded to 885 requests for technical assistance via telephone.
- **Email Requests for Advice:** Political Reform Consultants and Legal Division attorneys collectively responded to 911 email requests for advice, 651 of which were responded to within 24 hours, and 715 of which were responded to within 48 hours.

- **Advice Letters:** The Legal Division received 11 advice letter requests under the Political Reform Act and completed 6.
- **Section 1090 Letters:** The Legal Division received 2 advice letter requests concerning Section 1090 and completed 9.

F. Miscellaneous Decisions

None.

G. Upcoming Regulation Projects

November

CARS updates – Amend numerous regulations to reflect statutory changes that go into effect when the new Cal-Access filing system “goes live” in late 2026, as well as adopt new regulations and/or amend existing regulations to address items requiring clarification that have arisen during the development of the new filing system. (Adoption)

Cryptocurrency as a reportable financial interest – Amend existing regulations to conform with Commission-sponsored AB 1029, which revised the Act’s statutory definition of “investment” to include “digital financial assets” such as cryptocurrency. (Adoption)

COLA – Amend various regulations to reflect biennial cost-of-living adjustments required by statute. (Adoption)

For more information on recent and upcoming regulation projects, see <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/the-law/fppc-regulations/>.

H. Conflict of Interest Codes

State Agencies

- California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority
- Office of the State Public Defender
- Office of Administrative Law
- Office of Exposition Park Management

Multi-County Agencies

- Oakdale Joint Unified School District
- San Francisco International Airport-Community Roundtable
- Westlands Water District
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- California Joint Powers Risk Management Authority

I. Probable Cause Proceedings

Probable cause proceedings are conducted per Government Code section 83115.5. A finding of probable cause exists when a summary of the evidence supports a reasonable belief or strong suspicion that a violation occurred, but does not constitute a finding a violation occurred. Respondents are presumed innocent of any violation of the Act until a violation is proven in a subsequent proceeding.

In the Matter of Bryan J Holmes, Case No. 2024-01228. On September 2, 2026, probable cause was found, on the papers submitted, to believe that Respondent committed the following violation of the Act:

Count 4: Failure to Timely File a Leaving Office SEI

Holmes failed to timely file a Leaving Office within 30 days of leaving his position in violation of Section 87300.

In the Matter of Orlando Garcia, Case No. 2026-00049. On September 8, probable cause was found, on the papers submitted, to believe that Respondent committed the following violations of the Act:

Count 1: Failure to Timely File an Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests

Garcia failed to timely file an Assuming Office SEI by May 5, 2023, in violation of Section 87202.

Count 2: Failure to File a 2023 Annual Statement of Economic Interests

Garcia failed to timely file a 2023 Annual SEI by the April 2, 2024 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 87203.

Count 3: Failure to File a 2024 Annual Statement of Economic Interests

Garcia failed to timely file a 2024 Annual SEI by the April 1, 2025 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 87203.

Count 4: Failure to File a 2025 Annual Statement of Economic Interests

Garcia failed to timely file a 2025 Annual SEI by the April 1, 2026 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 87203.

In the Matter of Ben Taylor, Case No. 2025-00193. On September 18, 2026, probable cause was found, on the papers submitted, to believe that Respondent committed the following violation of the Act:

Count 1: Failure to Timely File 2021 Annual Statement of Economic Interest

Taylor failed to timely file the 2021 Annual SEI by the April 1, 2022 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 87203.

Count 2: Failure to Timely File 2023 Annual Statement of Economic Interest

Taylor failed to timely file the 2023 Annual SEI by the April 2, 2024 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 87203.

Count 3: Failure to Timely File 2024 Annual Statement of Economic Interest

Taylor failed to timely file the 2024 Annual SEI by the April 1, 2025 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 87203.

Count 4: Failure to Timely File Leaving Office Statement of Economic Interest

Taylor failed to timely file the Leaving Office SEI within 30 days of leaving their position, in violation of Government Code Section 87204.

IV. ADMINISTRATION & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

STAFF: JUE WANG, PhD, CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

A. New Employee Report

Enforcement Division

Vanessa Greer, Political Reform Consultant II, FPPC (Promotion)

B. Hiring Process

Enforcement Division

Political Reform Consultant I, FPPC

Attorney, FPPC

C. Statement of Economic Interest (SEI, Form 700)

April 1 Filing Status

As of October 1, 2026, **23,419** 2025 annual statements have been successfully filed through FPPC's E-filing system, representing approximately 98.4% of the total.

Entity	Total	Filed on Time	Filed Late	Not Filed
Cities A - M	3,835	3,399	361	75
Cities N - Z	2,885	2,546	292	47
Counties	4,514	3,798	587	129
Courts	4	4	0	0
Groundwater Sustainability Agency	1,620	1,483	112	25
Keenan	17	17	0	0
Legislative Staffers	1,609	1,489	119	1
Multi-County Agencies	6,229	5,636	516	77
State Agencies	3,094	2,847	213	34
Total	23,807	21,219	2,200	388
		89.1%	9.3%	1.6%

2026 Year-to-date E-Filing Summary

As of October 1, 2026, 33,958 annual, assuming office, leaving office, and candidate statements filed using the FPPC's E-filing system in 2026.

Entity	Annual	Assuming	Leaving	Candidate	Total
Cities A - M	3,784	349	290	1,351	5,774
Cities N - Z	2,870	307	254	946	4,377
Constitutional officers	52	7	5	140	204
Counties	4,395	361	220	222	5,198
Courts	2,292	105	88	143	2,628
Groundwater Sustainability Agency	1,624	107	94	2	1,827
Keenan	17	1	1	0	19
Legislative Staffers	1,609	227	169	0	2,005
Legislature	120	0	2	213	335
Multi-County Agencies	6,193	851	779	26	7,849
State Agencies	3,109	329	304	0	3,742
Total	26,065	2,644	2,206	3,043	33,958

SEI Unit September 2026 Summary

- Referred 27 cases to the Enforcement Division
- Issued 68 fine letters and 5 Amendment letters
- Issued 398 Non-filer letters
- Processed 285 Form 462
- Responded 2,128 emails from form700@fppc.ca.gov and 148 phone calls
- Re-certified 15 existing local e-filing systems and approved 1 new local e-filing system

D. Collection/Revenue

July 2026 – September 2026 Report of Collection

Category	Check	Credit Card	FTB Offset	Total
SEI Filing Fee	\$ 3,000	-	-	\$ 3,000
SEI Fine	\$ 200	\$ 5,952	-	\$ 6,152
PREP	-	\$ 4,800	-	\$ 4,800
Enforcement Collection	-	-	-	-
Enforcement Stipulations	\$ 122,168	\$ 26,767	-	\$ 148,935
Reimbursement	\$ 25	-	-	\$ 25
Total	\$ 125,393	\$ 37,519	-	\$ 162,912