



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811 • (916) 322-5660

EXECUTIVE STAFF REPORTS

September 17, 2026 Commission Hearing

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I. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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

A. Overview

During the period of August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026, the Enforcement Division received the following complaints and referrals:

	Sworn	Non-Sworn	Anonymous	Referrals
Number Received	39	17	73	161

For the month of August, more time to respond beyond the 14-day statutory period was needed for approximately 19 sworn complaints.

Additionally, for the month of August, the Enforcement Division opened 87 cases, rejected 101 complaints and referrals, and closed a total of 99 cases including:

- 42 warning letters – statement of economic interests violations (39) and campaign violations (3);
- 15 no action closure letters: PREP completed – advertisement violations (2), statement of economic interests violations (8), and campaign violations (5);
- 8 no action closure letters alleging – statement of economic interests violations (8);
- 27 approved stipulations from the August Commission Meeting;
- 2 advisory letters;
- 4 administrative terminations;
- 1 case closed as a duplicate.

The Division had a total of 1,031 cases in various stages of resolution at the time of the June Monthly Report and currently has approximately 1,019 cases in various stages of resolution, including the 5 streamline cases and 1 mainline case before the Commission as listed in the September Agenda. Net case closures since the last monthly report totaled 12.

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.

	June 2025	September 2025	December 2025	March 2026	June 2026	Difference in Existing Caseload Overall
2018	1	1	1	1	1	-0
2019	8	8	6	5	4	-4
2020	14	11	9	5	3	-11
2021	42	33	30	25	17	-25
2022	104	91	83	79	67	-37
2023	154	148	133	120	113	-41
2024	295	270	251	242	220	-75
2025	--	--	--	301	265	-36

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 Bank Account

In the Matter of Gifford for Judge 2026 and Tom Gifford; FPPC No. 26/290. Staff: Chance Felkins, Commission Counsel. Gifford for Judge 2026 is Tom Gifford's local candidate-controlled committee. The Committee and Gifford failed to process expenditures through a campaign bank account, in violation of Government Code Section 85201 (1 count). The Committee and Gifford failed to timely file a 24-Hour Report, in violation of Government Code Section 84203 (1 count), and failed to timely file a statement of organization, in violation of Government Code Section 84101 (1 count). **Total Penalty \$1,340 (Tiers One and Two).**

Advertisements

In the Matter of Yorba Linda Taxpayers Association and Thomas Lynch; FPPC No. 23/152. Staff: Jonathan Rivera, Commission Counsel and Carlie Haug, Staff Services Analyst. Yorba Linda Taxpayers Association is a local general purpose committee. Thomas Lynch serves as the committee's treasurer. The Committee and Lynch failed to timely report independent expenditures in violation of Government Code Section 84211(k)(5) (1 count), failed to disclose the candidate supported in violation of Government Code Section 84204(b) (2 counts), and failed to include the proper advertisement disclosures on flyers and mailers, in violation of Government Code Section 84504.2 and 84506.5 (4 counts). **Total Penalty: \$635 (Tier One).**

Campaign Late Filer/Reporter

In the Matter of Johnny Ybarra for Fullerton City Council District 3, 2022, John Ybarra, and Lizette Salgado; FPPC No. 23/203. Staff: Jonathan Rivera, Commission Counsel. Ybarra was an unsuccessful candidate for the Fullerton City Council in 2022. Johnny Ybarra for Fullerton City Council District 3, 2022 was the candidate's candidate-controlled committee. Salgado served as the committee's treasurer. The Committee, Ybarra, and Salgado failed to timely file two pre-election campaign statements, in violation of Government Code Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8 (2 counts), seven semiannual campaign statements, in violation of Government Code Section 84200 (7 counts), and nine 24-Hour Reports, in violation of Government Code Section 84203 (9 counts). **Total Penalty: \$2,909 (Tiers One and Two).**

Statement of Economic Interests Late Filer/Reporter

In the Matter of LanPhuong Nguyen; FPPC No. 25/1103. Staff: Franceska Gonzalez, Commission Counsel. LanPhuong Nguyen, Commissioner for the Measure W Oversight Committee of the City of Stockton, failed to timely file their Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests and 2025 Annual Statement of Economic Interests in violation of Government Code Section 87300 (2 counts). **Total Penalty: \$400 (Tier One).**

In the Matter of Robert Lea; FPPC No. 26/288. Staff: Stephanie Meaglia, Commission Counsel. The Respondent is represented by Charles Deyoe. Robert Lea, a former member of the California Walnut Commission, failed to timely file a 2024 Annual Statement of Economic Interests and a Leaving 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 August 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026, the Audits and Assistance Division adopted two audit reports, both with findings. Currently, the team has 41 audits in progress at various stages, including fieldwork, post-fieldwork, and quality review.

Details of the audit reports adopted are as follows:

1. Dr. Treasure Ortiz for Mayor 2022 (ID# 1436684)

- **Finding 1: Records Not Maintained for Expenditures**

Canceled checks were not maintained for five expenditures totaling \$2,221. Invoices and/or receipts were not maintained for expenditures totaling \$4,855. Bank statements were provided.

- **Finding 2: Form 410 Statement of Organization (Form 410) Not Filed Timely with the SOS and the San Bernardino City Clerk**

Form 410 Statement of Organization was not filed with the Secretary of State within 10 days of qualifying as a committee and a Form 410 Statement of Organization was not filed with the Secretary of State and the San Bernardino City Clerk within 10 days of terminating the committee. The Form 410 Statement of Organization reporting the date the committee qualified, due at the Secretary of State and the San Bernardino City Clerk on March 1, 2021 was not filed until March 2, 2021 at the Secretary of State, 1 day late. The Form 410 Statement of Organization reporting the date the committee qualified was filed on time with the San Bernardino City Clerk. The Form

410 Statement of Organization reporting the date the committee terminated, due at the Secretary of State and the San Bernardino City Clerk on January 9, 2023, was not filed until January 30, 2023 with the Secretary of State and April 17, 2023 with the San Bernardino City Clerk, 21 and 98 days late, respectively.

- **Finding 3: Form 497 Late Contribution Reports Not Filed with Secretary of State**

Form 497 Contribution Reports were not filed with the Secretary of State for 2 contributions received totaling \$2,700.

- **Finding 4: Contributions Received Overstated on Form 460 Campaign Disclosure Statements**

Reported contributions received were overstated by \$1,100 on the initial Form 460 Campaign Disclosure Statements filed for the period January 1 through June 30, 2021. The overstatement occurred due to an \$1,100 loan reported as received from the candidate on February 17, 2021 that was not deposited into the campaign bank account. An amendment was not filed to correct the misreporting.

- **Finding 5: Expenditures Made Overstated on Form 460 Campaign Disclosure Statements**

Expenditures made during the period from May 22 through June 30, 2022, were overstated by \$2,055 on the Form 460 Semi-annual Statement filed with the Secretary of State. No amendments were filed to correct the misreporting.

- **Finding 6: Cash Payments over \$100 for Expenditures**

Cash of \$588 was withdrawn from the campaign bank account on July 21, 2021, and used to pay for one campaign paraphernalia expenses from Calico Photo Studio of \$100 or more totaling \$588.

2. **Teresa Parra Craig for San Bernardino City Council - Ward 4 - 2022 (ID# 1438161)**

- **Finding 1: Records Not Maintained for Expenditures**

Canceled checks were not maintained for one expenditure totaling \$2,234. Invoices and/or receipts were not maintained for expenditures totaling \$27,804. Bank statements were provided.

- **Finding 2: Records Not Maintained for Contributions**

Records were not maintained for the occupation and/or employer information for contributions from 14 individuals totaling \$5,410.

- **Finding 3: Names of Actual Contributors Not Disclosed**

Names of actual contributors were not disclosed for 3 contributions received totaling \$1,500. The contributions consisted of a \$500 contribution from The Crossings at

Redlands, LLC on April 19, 2022, a \$750 contribution from NAIOP IE PAC on May 12, 2022, and a \$250 contribution from Hodgdon Group Realty Inc. on May 24, 2022.

- **Finding 4: Expenditures Not Disclosed on Form 460 Campaign Disclosure Statements**

Five expenditures totaling \$2,841 were not disclosed on the Form 460 Campaign Disclosure Statements filed.

- **Finding 5: Expenditures Made Overstated on Form 460 Campaign Disclosure Statements**

Expenditures totaling \$12,100 made to Teresa Parra Craig for loan repayments during the period from July 1 through December 31, 2022, were overstated on the initial Form 460 Semi-annual Statement filed with the San Bernardino City Clerk for the period ending June 30, 2023. An expenditure totaling \$2,234 made to Chris Jones during the period from January 1 through June 30, 2023 was overstated on the initial Form 460 Semi-annual Statement filed with the San Bernardino City Clerk for the period ending June 30, 2023. An amendment was not filed to disclose the payment made.

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 administrative penalty of \$20,000. 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

- August 11, the FPPC presented a Candidate/Treasurer webinar requested by the County of San Diego. Political Reform Consultants Stephen Hernandez and Alexandra Miner, presented. 31 people attended.
- August 18, the FPPC presented a Candidate/Treasurer – Getting Started webinar. Political Reform Consultants Kathryn Ito and Christian Durham, presented. 44 people attended.
- August 19, the FPPC presented a Completing Campaign Forms 460/497 webinar. Political Reform Consultants Alexandra Miner and Kathryn Ito, presented. 31 people attended.
- August 25, the FPPC presented a Campaign Filing Officer webinar. Political Reform Consultants Christian Durham and Alexandra Miner, presented. 31 people attended.
- August 26, the FPPC presented a Candidate/Treasurer webinar requested by the City of Santa Monica. Political Reform Consultant Stephen Hernandez and Telephone Advice & Education Outreach Manager Vanessa Manriquez, presented. 12 people attended.

Scheduled Webinars & Workshops

- September 16, the FPPC is presenting a Completing Campaign Forms 460/497 webinar.
- September 29, the FPPC is presenting a Behested Payments (Form 803) webinar.
- September 30, the FPPC is presenting a Candidate/Treasurer webinar.

Video Tutorials

Commission video tutorials were accessed a total of 782 times in August. Form 700 videos were accessed 303 times, the Candidate/Treasurer video was accessed 288 times, the filing officer videos were accessed 65 times, the Behested Payments (Form 803) video was accessed 29 times, and the How to File a Form 410 – For Local Candidate-Controlled Committees video was accessed 97 times.

C. New and Updated Educational Resources

- New [How to File a Form 410 For Local Candidate-Controlled Committees Video Tutorial](#)
- New [Trust Assets and Blind Trusts Fact Sheet](#)

D. Political Reform Education Program (PREP):

Course	Referrals Received	Completions	Failures to Complete	Current Enrollments	Withdrawals
Statement of Economic Interests Course	23	7	1	38	0
Campaign Course for Local Candidates and Candidate-Controlled Committees	1	6	0	5	0
Campaign Course for State Candidates and Candidate-Controlled Committees	1	0	0	1	0
Campaign Course for Independent Expenditure and Major Donor Committees	0	0	0	1	0
Campaign Course for General Purpose and Primarily Formed Committees	0	0	0	0	0
Advertisement Course for Candidates and Candidate-Controlled Committees	3	3	0	4	0

E. Advice

The [August 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 August, the Legal Division responded to the following requests for advice:

- **Education:** The Education unit responded to 950 requests for technical assistance via telephone.
- **Email Requests for Advice:** Political Reform Consultants and Legal Division attorneys collectively responded to 873 email requests for advice, 692 of which were responded to within 24 hours, and 745 of which were responded to within 48 hours.
- **Advice Letters:** The Legal Division received 4 advice letter requests under the Political Reform Act and completed 6.
- **Section 1090 Letters:** The Legal Division received 4 advice letter requests concerning Section 1090 and completed 2.

F. Miscellaneous Decisions

Regulation 18740 provides that an official or candidate is not required to disclose the name of a person under Section 87207 if disclosure would violate California or Federal law. The following exemption was approved in August.

- Denise Lite, Candidate of Santa Clarita City Council, District 2, is exempt from disclosing the identity of certain clients of her law firm because such disclosure would violate the attorney-client privilege due to the nature of her practice.

G. Upcoming Regulation Projects

October

None

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

- Privacy Protection Agency
- Franchise Tax Board
- State Lottery Commission
- Health and Human Services Agency

Multi-County Agencies

- Access Services
- Scholarship Prep
- Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District
- Sierra Sands Unified School District

Extensions

- CA Actuarial Advisory Panel

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 Esthela Torres de Siegrist, Case No. 2023-00376. On August 21, 2026, probable cause was found, after a probable cause conference on August 18, 2026, that Respondent committed the following violations of the Act:

Count 1: Section 1090 Conflict of Interest

Respondent Esthela Torres de Siegrist (Torres) was a member of the District Board, a multi-member body. In this capacity, Torres was a public official subject to Government Code section 1090. As a member of a multi-member body, Torres had a prohibited conflict of interest when Torres and/or the District Board participated in making and made the 2021 Lease Agreement contract between the District and PCC on April 14, 2021, in violation of Government Code section 1090.

Count 2: Section 1090 Conflict of Interest

Torres was a member of the District Board, a multi-member body. In this capacity, Torres was a public official subject to Government Code section 1090. As a member of a multi-member body, Torres had a prohibited conflict of interest when Torres and/or the District Board participated in making and made the 2021 Lease Agreement contract between the District and PCC on June 23, 2021, in violation of Government Code section 1090.

Count 3: Section 1090 Conflict of Interest

Torres was a member of the District Board, a multi-member body. In this capacity, Torres was a public official subject to Government Code section 1090. As a member of a multi-member body, Torres had a prohibited conflict of interest when Torres and/or the District Board participated in making and made the 2023 Lease Agreement contract between the District and PCC on June 21, 2023, in violation of Government Code section 1090.

Count 4: Pay-to-Play: Over-the-Limit Contribution to Officer

On September 19, 2024, Torres accepted a \$2,000 contribution from OMLO exceeding the \$250 limit within the 12 months after making a decision in a proceeding involving OMLO's increased retainer fee, in violation of Government Code section 84308, subdivision (b).

IV. ADMINISTRATION & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

STAFF: JUE WANG, PhD, CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

A. New Employee Report

Enforcement Division

Ashley Akegbe, Staff Services Analyst, FPPC

B. Hiring Process

Enforcement Division

Political Reform Consultant II, FPPC

Attorney, FPPC

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

April 1 Filing Status

As of September 2, 2026, **23,401** 2025 annual statements have been successfully filed through FPPC's E-filing system, representing approximately 98% of the total.

Entity	Total	Filed on Time	Filed Late	Not Filed
Cities A - M	3,836	3,400	355	81
Cities N - Z	2,886	2,546	290	50
Counties	4,537	3,837	577	123
Courts	4	4	0	0
Groundwater Sustainability Agency	1,620	1,483	111	26
Keenan	17	17	0	0
Legislative Staffers	1,609	1,489	119	1
Multi-County Agencies	6,201	5,626	490	85
State Agencies	3,094	2,847	210	37
Total	23,804	21,249	2,152	403
		89.3%	9.0%	1.7%

2026 Year-to-date E-Filing Summary

As of September 2, 2026, 33,340 annual, assuming office, leaving office, and candidate statements filed using the FPPC's E-filing system.

Entity	Annual	Assuming	Leaving	Candidate	Total
Cities A - M	3,779	318	267	1,275	5,639
Cities N - Z	2,868	282	228	911	4,289
Constitutional officers	52	6	5	140	203
Counties	4,424	336	200	196	5,156
Courts	2,292	93	83	143	2,611
Groundwater Sustainability Agency	1,623	95	84	1	1,803
Keenan	17	1	1	0	19
Legislative Staffers	1,609	213	142	0	1,964
Legislature	120	0	1	207	328
Multi-County Agencies	6,157	769	694	16	7,636
State Agencies	3,105	310	277	0	3,692
Total	26,046	2,423	1,982	2,889	33,340

SEI Unit August 2026 Summary

- Referred 97 cases to the Enforcement
- Issued 112 fine letters and 2 Amendment letters
- Issued 144 Non-filer letters
- Processed 55 Form 462
- Responded to 3,401 emails from form700@fppc.ca.gov and 92 phone calls
- Re-certified 3 existing local e-filing systems and approved 1 new local e-filing system

D. Collection/Revenue

July 2026 - August 2026 Report of Collection

Category	Check	Credit Card	FTB Offset	Total
SEI Filing Fee	\$ 3,000	-	-	\$ 3,000
SEI Fine	\$ 200	\$ 3,500	-	\$ 3,700

PREP	-	\$ 3,000	-	\$ 3,000
Enforcement Collection	-	-	-	-
Enforcement Stipulations	\$ 92,643	\$ 16,409	-	\$ 109,052
Reimbursement	\$ 25	-	-	\$ 25
Total	\$ 95,868	\$ 22,909	-	\$ 118,777