



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**  
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**To:** Chair Silver and Commissioners Brandt, Ortiz, Wilson, and Zettel  
**From:** Lindsey Nakano, Sr. Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** **Legislative Update – March 2026**  
**Date:** March 9, 2026

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**I. General Update**

- As of the date of this report, there are 17 active bills relating to the Political Reform Act, including 10 Commission-sponsored bills.
- Staff are continuing to reach out to and work with members, interested parties, and stakeholders, and to seek bipartisan support on Commission legislation.

**II. Upcoming Legislative Deadlines**

- Mar. 26 - Apr. 6 – Spring Recess.
- Apr. 24 – Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 1 – Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor non-fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 8 – Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 1.
- May 15 – Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 1.
- May 26 – 29 – Floor Session only.
- May 29 – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.
- June 1 – Committee meetings may resume.
- June 15 – Budget Bill must be passed by midnight.
- June 25 – Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.
- July 2 – Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills.
- July 3 – Aug. 3 – Summer Recess.
- Aug. 14 – Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Floor.
- Aug. 17 – 31 – Floor Session only.
- Aug. 21 – Last day to amend on the Floor.
- Aug. 31 – Last day for each house to pass bills. Final recess begins upon adjournment.
- Sept. 30 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 – and in the Governor’s possession on or after Sept. 1.
- Nov. 3 – General Election.

### III. 2026 Committee Membership

#### **Senate Elections Committee**

Scott Wiener (Chair)  
Steven “Steve” Choi (Vice Chair)  
Benjamin Allen  
Sabrina Cervantes  
Thomas Umberg

#### **Assembly Elections Committee**

Gail Pellerin (Chair)  
James Gallagher\* (Vice Chair)  
Steve Bennett  
Marc Berman  
Sade Elhawary\*  
Natasha Johnson\*  
José Luis Solache Jr.  
Catherine Stefani

#### **Senate Committee on Legislative Ethics**

Eloise Gómez Reyes (Chair)  
Shannon Grove (Vice Chair)  
Anna Caballero  
Dave Cortese  
Tim Grayson  
Roger Niello

#### **Assembly Committee on Legislative Ethics**

Catherine Stefani (Co-Chair)  
Phillip Chen (Co-Chair)  
Marc Berman  
Laurie Davies  
James Gallagher\*

#### **Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**

Melissa Hurtado (Chair)  
Christopher Cabaldon  
Roger Niello  
Lola Smallwood-Cuevas

#### **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration**

Sharon Quirk-Silva (Chair)  
Jessica M. Caloza\*  
Matt Haney  
Liz Ortega  
Greg Wallis  
Christopher M. Ward  
Jesse Gabriel (Dem. Alternate)  
David J. Tangipa\* (Rep. Alternate)

\*New

## IV. FPPC-Sponsored Bills

### Updates (as of 3/5/26)

- Introduced: AB 1736 (Pellerin), AB 1788 (Boerner), AB 1789 (Boerner), AB 2255 (Pellerin), AB 2421 (Valencia), AB 2592 (Pacheco), AB 2655 (Valencia), SB 401 (Hurtado), SB 1389 (Dahle)
- Passed in the Senate: SB 401 (Hurtado)
- Set for hearing: AB 1736 (Pellerin), AB 1788 (Boerner)

### Status and Summaries

#### 1. [AB 775 \(Fong\) – Behested Payment Reporting \(2-Year Bill\)](#)

**Status:** On the Suspense File in the Senate Appropriations Committee (8/29/25)

**Short Summary:** AB 775 would require behested payment reports submitted by elected state and local officers and members of the Public Utilities Commission to be electronically filed directly with the FPPC. As an alternative to electronic filing with the FPPC, the bill would permit local elected officers to file directly with their local filing officer under the condition that the reports are posted publicly on the local agency’s website. The bill would also alter the reporting deadline, create a new threshold for when a subsequent report is required to be filed for additional behested payments from the same donor, and codify two existing regulations.

#### **Detailed Summary:**

##### *Existing law:*

- *Definition of behested payment:* Generally, a “behested payment” is a payment requested or solicited by an elected official that is paid by one individual or organization to another individual or organization for a legislative, governmental, or charitable purpose.
- *Reporting threshold for behested payments:* An elected officer or member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is required to submit a behested payment report when a single source (payor) makes a behested payment or payments at the behest of the elected officer or PUC member totaling \$5,000 or more in the aggregate in a calendar year.
- *Reporting process and deadline:* Elected officers and PUC members must file behested payment reports with their respective agencies within 30 days of reaching the reporting threshold. At the state level, the agency is then required to forward a copy of the report to the FPPC within 30 days.

At the local level, the agency is required to forward a copy of the report to the local filing officer within 30 days.

- *Subsequent reports:* If an elected officer or PUC member submits a behested payment report for a payor, and that same payor later makes another behested payment in any amount in the same calendar year, the elected officer or PUC member must submit a subsequent behested payment report for that payor.

*Reporting process, electronic filing:* AB 775 would require behested payment reports filed by elected state or local officers or PUC members to be filed directly with the FPPC using the FPPC's electronic filing system for behested payment reports. The bill would require that the FPPC's e-filing systems for behested payment reports send an automatic confirmation email after the report is submitted.

*Reporting process, alternate option for local elected officers:* As an alternative to electronic filing with the FPPC, AB 775 would permit local elected officers to file behested payment reports directly with their local filing officer if all behested payment reports for officers of that agency are posted publicly on the local agency website. Local electronic filing would also be authorized, and the bill would clarify that an electronically filed report is an original report. The bill would require local agencies to post the behested payment reports online within 10 days of receipt.

*Deadline for initial behested payment reports:* AB 775 would alter the deadline for filing behested payment reports. Behested payments that meet the threshold of \$5,000 or more in the aggregate from a single source in a calendar year would be required to be reported within 30 days following the end of the calendar quarter in which that threshold was met.

*Subsequent reports:* AB 775 would require reporting of subsequent payments made after an initial behested payment report for a particular donor only after reaching an additional \$1,000 from the same donor in the same calendar year. These subsequent reports would also be due within 30 days after the end of the calendar quarter.

*Codification of two regulations:* AB 775 would codify two existing regulations, which specify additional information that must be reported on a behested payment report and permit a good faith estimate of the behested payment amount to be reported.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

**FPPC Costs:** \$177,000 first year and \$170,000 ongoing for 1 IT position and annual software costs.

2. **AB 1736 (Pellerin) – “Astroturfing” Prohibition for Lobbyist Employers**

**Status:** Set for hearing in the Assembly Elections Committee on 3/25/26

**Short Summary:** AB 1736 would prohibit lobbyist employers from creating a fictitious appearance of public favor or disfavor of any proposed legislative or administrative action, or sending a communication to certain public officials in the name of any fictitious person, or any real person without their consent.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA imposes various prohibitions on lobbyists and lobbying firms, including a prohibition on “attempt[ing] to create a fictitious appearance of public favor or disfavor of any proposed legislative or administrative action or [causing] any communication to be sent to any elected state officer, legislative official, agency official, or state candidate in the name of any fictitious person or in the name of any real person, except with the consent of such real person.”

*Extends the prohibition to lobbyist employers:* AB 1736 extends the above prohibition to additionally apply to lobbyist employers.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

3. **AB 1788 (Boerner) – Enhanced Disclosure for Nonprofit Organizations that Pay for Elected Official Travel**

**Status:** Set for hearing in the Assembly Elections Committee on 3/25/26

**Short Summary:** AB 1788 revises and clarifies the reporting threshold for nonprofit organizations that pay for travel expenses for elected officials, enhances disclosure, and imposes related recordkeeping requirements.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA requires a nonprofit organization that made travel and travel-related payments greater than 1/3 of its total expenses, as reported on the organization’s Internal Revenue Service Form 990, and that made payments, advances, or reimbursements for elected official travel that total more than \$10,000 per year, or more than \$5,000 per year for a single official, to disclose the names of donors to the nonprofit organization who donated at least \$1,000 and accompanied the official on their travel during the preceding year.

*Report by Audit Division:*

- In May 2023, CalMatters reported that nonprofits paying for official travel had only filed two Form 807s since the reporting requirement went into

effect in 2016. The Commission subsequently directed the Audits & Assistance Division to conduct an audit of entities that may be subject to this reporting obligation. The purpose of the audit was to gather information regarding the application of the current reporting requirements that could assist in evaluating the effectiveness of those requirements and what steps the Commission and Legislature should take to improve compliance.

- The Audits and Assistance Division conducted 10 discretionary audits of nonprofit organizations. The report is available [here](#).
- The 10 nonprofit organizations were selected because public officials had reported receiving gifts of travel from those organizations on the public officials' Form 700s. Of the 10 selected, 8 had not filed a Form 807, and 2 had filed the form for either 2021 or 2022. The Audit Division found that 8 of the nonprofit organizations did not meet the reporting threshold in existing law that requires reporting only if the nonprofit organization's total travel and travel-related payments are greater than 1/3 of its total expenses, as reported on the organization's Internal Revenue Service Form 990.
- The Audits and Assistance Division made recommendations for legislative changes, which serve as the basis for this bill.

*Revised reporting threshold:* AB 1788 would eliminate the threshold that requires reporting only if the nonprofit organization's travel and travel-related payments are greater than 1/3 of its total expenses, as reported on the organization's Internal Revenue Service Form 990. The bill would instead require reporting if the nonprofit makes expenditures for travel for elected officials of \$10,000 or more per year, or \$5,000 or more per year for a single elected official.

*Enhanced disclosure:* AB 1788 requires disclosure of each travel expenditure and the name of the official for whom the expenditure was made.

*Recordkeeping:* AB 1788 adds recordkeeping requirements that mirror the standard recordkeeping requirements for other entities under the PRA.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

#### 4. [AB 1789 \(Boerner\) – Mandatory Campaign Training \(Spot Bill\)](#)

**Status:** Introduced on 2/10/26

**Summary:** AB 1789, currently a “spot” bill, is the vehicle for the Commission's proposal requiring campaign training for candidates and treasurers.

5. **AB 2255 (Pellerin) – Enhanced Disclosure for Large Expenditures**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/19/26

**Short Summary:** AB 2255 would require more detailed disclosure on campaign reports about large expenditures in periods when the candidate will not be on the ballot in the next election.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA requires recipient committees to report specific information about each expenditure made by the committee, including the name and street address of the person to whom the expenditure was made, the date and amount of the expenditures, and a brief description of the consideration for which each expenditure was made.

*Enhanced disclosure:*

- AB 2255 would require a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate to report additional information on its campaign statement if:
  - The candidate will not appear on the ballot at the next election, and
  - The committee makes expenditures to a single person exceeding a certain amount (to be determined) in the aggregate during the reporting period.
- For each aggregate expenditure to a single person over the threshold amount, the committee would be required to disclose a description of any consideration for which each expenditure was made, and, if applicable, the relationship of the person or reportable subvendor to the candidate or any individual with authority to approve the expenditure of campaign funds held by the committee.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

6. **AB 2421 (Valencia) – Automatic Termination of Inactive Committees (Spot Bill)**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/20/26

**Summary:** AB 2421, currently a “spot” bill, is the vehicle for the Commission’s proposal enabling automatic termination of inactive committees under specific conditions.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

7. **[AB 2592 \(Pacheco\) – Transfer of Lobbying Training to the FPPC \(Spot Bill\)](#)**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/20/26

**Summary:** AB 2592, currently a “spot” bill, is the vehicle for the Commission’s proposal transferring the lobbying training from the Legislative Ethics Committees to the FPPC.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

8. **[AB 2655 \(Valencia\) – Use of Campaign Funds for Security Expenses: Licensed Security Personnel](#)**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/20/26

**Short Summary:** AB 2655 requires that security personnel paid with campaign funds must be appropriately licensed.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA authorizes use of campaign funds for security expenses to protect a candidate, an elected officer, or the immediate family or staff of a candidate or elected officer, provided that the threat or potential threat to safety arises from the candidate’s or elected officer’s activities, duties, or status as a candidate or elected officer or from staff’s position as staff of the candidate or elected officer. “Security expenses” is defined for these purposes to include, among other things, the reasonable costs of providing personal security to a candidate, elected officer, or the immediate family or staff of a candidate or elected officer.

*License requirement:* AB 2655 would provide that campaign funds may be used to pay security personnel pursuant only if the security personnel hold the appropriate license issued by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

9. **[SB 401 \(Hurtado\) – PRA Filing Deadline Extensions in Emergency Situations](#)**

**Status:** Passed in the Senate Elections Committee on 1/13/26; passed in the Senate on 1/5/26 (40-0)

**Short Summary:** SB 401 would authorize the commission to extend filing deadlines in the PRA for individuals impacted by a state or local emergency.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA imposes deadlines for filing various reports and statements under the PRA, including statements of economic interests, lobbying reports, behested payment reports, and campaign reports and statements.

*New authority:* SB 401 would authorize the Commission to extend any filing deadline under the PRA for individuals that live in an area impacted by an emergency proclaimed by the Governor or a local governing body pursuant to specified authority.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

**FPPC Costs:** Minor and absorbable

**10. [SB 1389 \(Dahle\)](#) – **Form 700 Late Fee Waiver Authority (Spot Bill)****

**Status:** Introduced on 2/20/26

**Summary:** AB 2421, currently a “spot” bill, is the vehicle for the Commission’s proposal expanding authority for discretionary waiver of the Form 700 late fee.

**FPPC Position:** Sponsor

## V. Other Commission-Related Bills

### Updates (as of 3/5/26)

- Introduced: AB 1840 (Sanchez), AB 2413 (Ransom), SB 1159 (Cabaldon), SB 1175 (Rubio), SB 1225 (Niello and Umberg), SB 1432 (Senate Elections Committee)
- Set for hearing: AB 1560 (Tangipa), AB 1840 (Sanchez)

### Status and Summaries

#### 1. [AB 1560 \(Tangipa\) – Lobbyist Certification](#)

**Status:** Set for hearing in the Assembly Elections Committee on 3/25/26

**Short Summary:** AB 1560 would prohibit a person from acting as a lobbyist if the person has been convicted of a crime of public corruption.

#### **Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law; “lobbyist” defined:* The PRA generally defines a lobbyist as an individual who receives \$2,000 or more in economic consideration in a calendar month, or whose principal duties as an employee are, to communicate directly or indirectly with any elective state official, state agency official, or legislative official for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action.

*Existing law; lobbyist certification:* The PRA requires each individual lobbyist to submit a lobbyist certification with the SOS.

*“Crime of public corruption” defined:* For purposes of the bill, “crime of public corruption” means a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

*New prohibition:* AB 1560 would prohibit a person who is convicted of a crime of public corruption from acting as a lobbyist.

*Lobbyist certification:* AB 1560 would require that the lobbyist certification include a statement that the lobbyist has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption.

*SOS duty:* AB 1560 would prohibit the SOS from accepting a lobbying certification from a person who has been convicted of a crime of public corruption. If a person convicted of a crime of public corruption is already a

registered lobbyist, the bill provides that the lobbyist certification shall be void upon the person's conviction.

2. **AB 1840 (Sanchez) – Prohibition on Using Nonpublic Information Related to Prediction Market Contracts.**

**Status:** Set for hearing in the Assembly Elections Committee on 3/25/26

**Short Summary:** AB 1840 prohibits specified individuals from knowingly engaging in the purchase, sale, or exchange of a “prediction market contract” that bets or speculates on the outcome, occurrence, or nonoccurrence of an administrative action, election, governmental decision, or legislative action or decision if the individual possesses, or may obtain, material nonpublic information relating to the purchase, sale or exchange.

**Detailed Summary:**

*New prohibition:* AB 1840 would prohibit an elected or appointed public official, an individual required to file a Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interests), or a lobbyist from knowingly engaging in the purchase, sale, or exchange of a “prediction market contract” that bets or speculates on the outcome, occurrence, or nonoccurrence of an administrative action, election, governmental decision made in the course of the individual's official duties, or any legislative action or decision if the individual possesses, or it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual may obtain in the course of their official duties, material nonpublic information relating to the purchase, sale or exchange.

*Definition:* “Prediction market contract” is defined in the bill to mean a contract, derivative, financial instrument, or investment that is both of the following:

- (A) Issued, listed on, or offered by a business entity.
- (B) Related to the outcome, occurrence, or nonoccurrence of a future event or events.

*Adds to prohibitions that apply to lobbyists:* The bill would also amend the list of prohibitions that apply to lobbyists and lobbying firms, to add that the new prohibition above applies to lobbyists and lobbying firms.

3. **AB 2413 (Ransom) – Large-Format Public Advertisements at the Public Expense**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/20/26

**Short Summary:** AB 2413 would prohibit certain large-format public advertisements from being published or displayed using public money if the ad includes a photograph of an elected official affiliated with the agency that paid for the ad.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA has specific rules concerning the sending of mass mailings at the public expense that mention public officials. With some exceptions, the PRA prohibits the individual distribution of more than 200 copies of substantially similar items in a calendar month if the items include the name, office, photograph, or other reference of an elected official.

*New prohibition:* AB 2413 would prohibit a “large-format public advertisement” from being published or displayed at the public expense if both:

- The ad includes the photograph of an elected officer affiliated with the agency and the ad was prepared in cooperation, consultation, coordination, or concert with the elected officer.
- The costs of distribution of the advertisement are paid for with public money, or the costs of design, production, and printing are paid for with public money, and the design, production, or printing is done with the intent of publishing or displaying the advertisement.

*Definition:* AB 2413 defines “large-format public advertisement” to include:

- A billboard.
- Wrap on a bus or other public transportation vehicle.
- Advertisements affixed to a bus stop or other public infrastructure.
- Other public advertisements that are larger than those designed to be individually distributed and that are specified by regulation.

4. **SB 1159 (Cabaldon) – Excluding AI from the Definition of “Person” and Related Terms**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/18/26

**Short Summary:** SB 1159 would provide that, for the purposes of the PRA, and other specified areas of law, the terms “person,” “interested person,” “participant,” “member of the public,” as applicable, and any other similar terms under each area of law referring to those who may engage with governmental agencies, do not include artificial intelligence systems, autonomous agents, robots, or other nonhuman entities, whether physical or digital.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA defines “person” to mean an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, limited liability company, association, committee, and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert.

*Exclusions to the definition of “person” and related terms:* SB 1159 provides that, for the purposes of the PRA, CPRA, Bagley Keene, the Administrative Procedures Act, the Brown Act, and CEQA, “the terms ‘person,’ ‘interested person,’ ‘participant,’ ‘member of the public,’ as applicable, and any other similar terms under each act referring to those who may engage with governmental agencies, do not include artificial intelligence systems, autonomous agents, robots, or other nonhuman entities, whether physical or digital.

*Definition:* For purposes of the bill, “artificial intelligence” is defined to mean an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments.

*Clarification needed:* Because the definition of “person” under the PRA includes business entities, committees, organizations, and other “nonhuman entities,” amendments are likely needed to ensure that the bill does not inadvertently affect duties and authority under the PRA.

*Note:* SB 1159 does not directly amend the PRA, but amends definitions in the PRA through reference to PRA sections.

**5. [SB 1175 \(Rubio\) – Filing of Lobbyist Registration and Termination](#)**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/18/26

**Short Summary:** SB 1175 would enable lobbyists to file amended lobbyist certifications or notices of termination directly with the Secretary of State (SOS).

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA provides that if any change occurs in any of the information contained in a lobbyist certification or if a lobbyist terminates all activity that required the certification, the lobbyist must submit an amended certification or notice of termination to the lobbyist’s lobbying firm or lobbyist employer for filing with SOS.

*Enabling direct filing:* SB 1175 would instead require that an amended lobbyist certification or notice of termination be filed by the lobbyist directly with SOS.

6. **SB 1225 (Niello and Umberg) – Preparation of Ballot Summary and Titles**

**Status:** Introduced on 2/19/26

**Short Summary:** SB 1225 would require the Legislative Analyst, instead of the Attorney General, to prepare the official summary of measures that will appear on the ballot, contingent on passage of similar proposed changes in the California Constitution.

**Detailed Summary:**

*Existing law:* The PRA includes requirements relating to the content of the state voter information guide, including summaries and analyses of measures. The Legislative Analyst is required to prepare summaries of the general meaning and effect of “yes” and “no” votes on each state measure, and an impartial analysis of the measure, including a description of the measure and a fiscal analysis. The Attorney General is responsible for preparing the official summary for each measure.

*Responsibility for the official summary:* SB 1225, as it amends the PRA, would require the Legislative Analyst, instead of the Attorney General to prepare the official summary of each measure.

*Other changes in the Elections Code:* The bill makes several similar changes in the Elections Code to require the Legislative Analyst, instead of the Attorney General, to prepare ballot titles and summaries for initiative and referendum measures.

*Contingent on passage of a Constitutional amendment:* The California Constitution imposes certain duties on the Attorney General relating to initiative and referendum petitions and measures. Another bill, SCA 3, would amend the California Constitution to impose these duties instead on the

Legislative Analyst. The changes made in SB 1225 would only take effect if SCA 3 also passes.

7. **SB 1432 (Senate Elections Committee) – PRA Committee Bill**

**Status:** Introduced on 3/5/26

Bill text not yet available as of the date of this report.