



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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TO: Chair Silver, Commissioners Brandt, Ortiz, and Wilson

FROM: Chloe Hackert, Education & External Affairs Unit, Manager, Legal Division

SUBJECT: **California Secretary of State's New CAL-ACCESS Filing System – Report Outputs**

DATE: October 5, 2026

Introduction

The Fair Political Practices Commission is presenting, in collaboration with the California Secretary of State, report outputs for approval as the new specified format for campaign and lobbying reports produced from data submitted through the new CAL-ACCESS filing system.

The CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project (“CARS”) will implement a new data-driven CAL-ACCESS system to replace the existing form-driven system. The new and improved CAL-ACCESS will provide users with a more efficient, sustainable, flexible, and easier-to-use system that offers transparency into campaign and lobbying activity.

The new data-driven system moves away from the complex and fixed layout of traditional paper disclosure forms. The attached report outputs filter out blank fields, instructional text, and empty pages, showing only the data submitted for the relevant report, thus creating cleaner public records in a format that displays information in an intuitive and user-friendly way.

These campaign and lobbying outputs will be available for filers to generate and preview when they are preparing their reports, and the reports will be available for the public to view once they have been attested and filed.

This report format applies only to data submitted through the new CAL-ACCESS filer portal and data submitted via a third-party software vendor to the new CAL-ACCESS system for filing at the state level.

The attached report outputs will take effect upon the certification of the new CAL-ACCESS system.

Attachments

The attachments are samples of the output report format that the new CAL-ACCESS system will produce when CARS goes live. The samples include test data to illustrate how the data will be populated in the new report format.

The reports and registrations will contain all the data as required by the Political Reform Act and FPPC regulations and as contained in the current FPPC forms. The reports will display the data the

filer submits, but not sections where the filer has no relevant data. For example, if a committee has no loans or unpaid bills to report, the committee's campaign report will state, "nothing reported in this category," and the full loans or accrued expenses sections will not appear in the report output.

The Secretary of State's office is conducting user system testing, and these report outputs may be modified slightly as a result. However, the final product of the report outputs will have the same report format as shown in the samples below.

Staff recommends your approval of the output report format for campaign and lobbying reports produced from data submitted through the new CAL-ACCESS filing system.

- Lobbying Firm Registration
- Lobbying Firm Activity Authorization
- Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition Registration
- Lobbyist Registration
- Lobbyist Report
- Lobbying Firm Report
- Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition Report
- Other Payments to Influence Legislative or Administrative Action Report
- Candidate Intention Statement
- Committee Registration
- Limited Liability Company (LLC) Statement of Members
- Recipient Committee Campaign Report
- Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Report
- 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report
- 24-hour/10-day Contribution Report
- Business Entity: Advocacy & Advertisements Online Activity Report
- Paid Spokesperson Report
- Communications Identifying State Candidates – Issue Advocacy Report
- Slate Mailer Organization Registration
- Slate Mailer Organization Campaign Report
- Slate Mailer 24-hour Payment Report