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

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

From: Lindsey Nakano, Sr. Legislative Counsel

Subject: **Legislative Update – September 2026**

Date: September 1, 2026

I. General Update

- As of the date of this report, four Commission-sponsored bills have been Chaptered.

- Ten bills relating to the Political Reform Act have passed in the Legislature and await decision by the Governor. Commission staff are continuing to engage with the Governor's office to express support for the FPPC's sponsored and supported bills.

- Commission staff are in the process of developing ideas for the next legislative year.

II. Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

- 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.
- Dec. 7 – Legislature convenes for one-day organizational session.
- Jan. 1 – Statutes take effect.

III. FPPC-Sponsored Bills

Updates (as of 9/1/26)

- Passed in both houses and awaiting the Governor's decision: AB 775 (Fong), AB 1789 (Boerner), AB 2255 (Pellerin), AB 2592 (Pacheco), SB 401 (Hurtado)

- Chaptered: SB 1389 (Dahle)

Status and Summaries

1. **AB 775 (Fong) – Behested Payment Reporting (2-Year Bill)**

   Status: Passed in the Assembly (78-0) and in the Senate (40-0)

   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 <u>if</u> 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 [CHAPTERED]**

Status: Passed in the Assembly (74-0) and in the Senate (36-0); signed by the Governor and Chaptered on 7/13/26

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 in the name of 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

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

3. **[AB 1789](AB 1789) (Boerner) – Mandatory Campaign Training**

Status: Passed in the Assembly (76-1) and in the Senate (39-0)

Short Summary: Starting January 1, 2029, AB 1789 would require candidates for elective office with a candidate controlled committee, subject to specified exceptions, and treasurers of candidate-controlled committees to complete a campaign training course.

Detailed Summary:

Mandatory candidate training: AB 1789 would, commencing January 1, 2029, require a candidate for elective office with a candidate controlled committee to complete a training course on the requirements in the PRA for the office for which they intend to be a candidate, subject to a specific deadline. The bill would prohibit a candidate who does not complete the training course by the deadline from accepting contributions until the date the candidate completes the training course.

Mandatory treasurer training: AB 1789 would, commencing January 1, 2029, also require the treasurer for a candidate controlled committee to complete a training course on the requirements of the Act that apply to the committee, subject to a specific deadline. The bill would prohibit a committee whose treasurer does not complete the training course from accepting contributions until the training course is completed.

Training form and duration: AB 1789 would require that the training be available through an online platform, internet webpage, or application, and may be completed at the convenience of the individual, subject to the deadlines provided in the bill. The training course may be no more than 90 minutes for candidates and 120 minutes for treasurers.

Exemptions to mandatory training: The bill would exempt from these requirements an individual who is required to complete, and has completed, a similar training offered by a local government ethics agency.

FPPC Position: Sponsor

FPPC Costs: $405,000 first year and $391,000 ongoing for 1 Enforcement position and 1 Legal position and annual software license costs.

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

Status: Passed in the Assembly (77-0) and in the Senate (38-0)

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 additional information to be disclosed about an expenditure on a candidate controlled committee's campaign statement if:
    - The expenditure is made to a single person and the committee has made expenditures to that person totaling $20,000 or more in the aggregate during the reporting period.
    - The expenditure is made by a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office of the controlling candidate and the candidate will not appear on the ballot at the next election.
    - The committee is not established for the purpose of reelection of the controlling candidate to the same office.
    - The expenditure is made for a purpose other than for a contribution or a credit card payment.
- For an expenditure that meets the above conditions, the committee would be required to include in the campaign statement:
    - In the description of the expenditure, the specific political, legislative, or governmental purpose that is satisfied by the payment.
    - Identification of specific relationships with the person or reportable subvendor, if the person to whom the expenditure was made or a reportable subvendor is an immediate family member of the candidate, a paid member of the candidate's campaign or

officeholder staff, or an immediate family member of a paid member of the candidate's campaign or officeholder staff.

FPPC Position: Sponsor

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

5. **AB 2421 (Valencia) – Automatic Termination of Inactive Committees [CHAPTERED]**

Status: Passed in the Assembly (74-0) and in the Senate (36-0); signed by the Governor and Chaptered on 7/13/26

Short Summary: AB 2421 would authorize the Secretary of State to terminate inactive campaign committees if certain conditions are present.

Detailed Summary:

Automatic termination: AB 2421 would authorize SOS to terminate a recipient committee if SOS determines that the committee meets either of the following conditions:

- The committee has not submitted campaign reports for the prior 12 months and reported an ending cash balance or $3,000 or less on its last campaign statement, or $5,000 or less and the committee owes $2,000 or more to the controlling candidate.

- The committee filed a statement of organization in error.

Notice period and opportunity to object: SOS would be required to notify both the committee and the FPPC of the proposed termination. If no objection is made within 180 days of the notice, SOS may terminate the committee.

Notification to filing officer: SOS would be required to notify the filing officer following termination of a committee.

FPPC Position: Sponsor

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

6. **AB 2592 (Pacheco) – Transfer of Lobbyist Training to the FPPC and Qualification for Acting as a Lobbyist**

Status: Amended on 8/20/26; passed in the Assembly (78-0) and in the Senate (40-0)

Short Summary: Starting January 1, 2029, AB 2592 would transfer the lobbyist training duty from the Legislative Ethics Committees to the FPPC. The bill would also prohibit a person from acting as a lobbyist if the person has been convicted of a crime of public corruption, as defined.

Detailed Summary:

Existing law: Existing law outside of the PRA requires the legislative ethics committees to conduct an orientation course on the relevant ethical issues and laws relating to lobbying, in consultation with the FPPC, at least semiannually. Existing law provides that the legislative ethics committees shall impose fees on lobbyists for attending the course, set at an amount that will enable the lobbyists' participation in the course to be funded from those fees to the fullest extent possible. That fee is currently set at $50.

Transfer of the training duty: Starting January 1, 2029, AB 2592 would transfer the lobbyist training duty to the FPPC. The bill would require that the course curriculum be developed in consultation with the legislative ethics committees and that the committees have final approval over the content of the course that relates to the legislature's policies against harassment, including sexual harassment.

On-demand: AB 2592 would require that the course is available on-demand through an online platform, internet webpage, or application.

Funding: AB 2592 would provide that the fee for the training is $50, subject to a biennial cost of living adjustment rounded to the nearest $10. The bill would also provide that unused funds collected by the joint legislative ethics committees from lobbyists for the course shall be transferred to the FPPC for the purpose of developing the course.

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 2592 would prohibit a person who was convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years from acting as a lobbyist.

Lobbyist certification: AB 2592 would require that the lobbyist certification include a statement that the lobbyist has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.

SOS duty: AB 2592 would prohibit the SOS from accepting a lobbying certification from a person unless the certification includes a statement signed under penalty of perjury that the person has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years. 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.

FPPC Position: Sponsor

FPPC Costs: $194,000 first year and $187,000 ongoing for 1 Legal position and annual software license costs

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

Status: Passed in the Assembly (66-0) and in the Senate (36-0); signed by the Governor and Chaptered on 7/13/26

Short Summary: AB 2655 requires that security personnel paid with campaign funds must be licensed by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.

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

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

8. SB 401 (Hurtado) – PRA Filing Deadline Extensions in Emergency Situations

Status: Passed in the Assembly (76-0) and in the Senate (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, if the emergency situation is reasonably likely to affect the individual's ability to timely file.

Maximum extension: SB 401 would provide that any filing extension granted by the commission may be no more than 60 days from the original filing deadline.

Does not apply to campaign filings near the election: The authority to grant an extension would not apply to filing deadlines for campaign statements or reports during the 90 days before an election.

FPPC Position: Sponsor

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

9. SB 1389 (Dahle) – Form 700 Late Fee Waiver Authority [CHAPTERED]

Status: Passed in the Assembly (72-0) and in the Senate (36-0); signed by the Governor and Chaptered on 8/27/26

Short Summary: SB 1389 would expand the authority for discretionary waiver of the Form 700 late fee in circumstances where the late filing was not willful.

Detailed Summary:

Existing law: Existing law permits filing officers to waive the $10/day late fee for late Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700s) if the late filing was not willful and enforcement of the liability will not further the purposes of the PRA. Waiver is limited to within 30 days of the original deadline of the Form 700.

Extension of waiver period: SB 1389 would extend the duration of this waiver authority to permit waiver of a late Form 700 up to 30 days after a referral for the late or missing filing is filed with the commission.

Clarification: The bill clarifies language relating to how the maximum late fee is calculated.

FPPC Position: Sponsor

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

IV. Other Commission-Related Bills

Updates (as of 9/1/26)

- Passed in both houses and awaiting the Governor's decision: AB 1130 (Berman),
- Not moving forward: AB 1560 (Tangipa)

Status and Summaries

1. **AB 1130 (Berman and Blanca Rubio) – Enforcement Authority for Disclaimers on Paid Third Party "Influencer" Posts**

Status: Passed in the Assembly (79-0) and the Senate (40-0)

Principal Coauthor: Senator Umberg

Coauthor: Senator Cervantes

Short Summary: AB 1130 adds authority to enforce violations of the requirement to include a disclaimer statement with paid posts by third party "influencers," and requires additional detail to be reported by the committee about these payments.

Detailed Summary:

Existing law; required disclaimer: Existing law provides that if a committee pays a person to post content on an internet website, web application, or digital application for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate for elective office or a ballot measure, the person shall concurrently include a disclaimer with that content stating that the person was paid by the committee in connection with the posting.

Existing law; enforcement: Existing law provides that a person who fails to include the disclaimer statement is not subject to administrative, civil, or criminal penalties under the PRA. Existing law authorizes the FPPC to seek injunctive relief to compel compliance.

Adding enforcement authority: AB 1130 would strike the provision that provides that violations are not subject to administrative, civil, or criminal penalties and would add that if a person accepts payment from a committee to post content that requires a disclaimer statement, and the person does not include the required disclaimer statement, then the person and the committee that paid the person are jointly and severally liable for any civil or administrative penalties incurred for the violation.

Reporting: AB 1130 also adds that if a committee pays a person for a third party post, as described above, and that payment is required to be reported, the committee must include on the campaign report a statement that the payment was provided for a paid third party post.

Notification by committee: Existing law requires the committee to notify the third party "influencer" of the requirement to include the disclaimer statement. AB 1130 would additionally require the committee to notify the person that failure to include the disclaimer may result in penalties under the PRA.

FPPC Position: Support

FPPC Costs: $258,413 first year and $251,413 ongoing for 1 position in the Enforcement Division

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

Status: Passed in the Assembly (73-0) and in the Senate (39-0)

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 24 inches by 36 inches or more in size and are specified by regulation.

FPPC Position: Support

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

3. **SB 900 (McNerney) – Advertisement Disclosures**

   Status: Amended on 8/13/26 and 8/20/26; passed in the Assembly (79-0) and in the Senate (40-0)

   Principal Coauthors: Senators Allen, Umberg, and Cervantes, Assemblymember Solache

   Coauthor: Assemblymember Lee

   Short Summary: SB 900 revises and adds to requirements in the PRA relating to campaign advertisement disclaimers.

Detailed Summary:

Clarifies which ads can display shortened committee names: For purposes of which types of ads can display shortened committee names, SB 900 clarifies that an "advertisement that is larger than those designed to be individually distributed," includes, but isn't limited to, a yard sign or billboard.

Top contributor names: SB 900 adds "limited liability corporation" to the list of terms that cannot be included in top contributor name. The bill also adds detailed rules for disclosing top contributor names:

- If the advertisement disclosure requirements require the disclosure of the name of a top contributor that is a multipurpose organization required to register as a committee, only the name of the multipurpose organization shall be disclosed. Additionally, the top contributor disclosure of the multipurpose organization's name cannot include "the name or number of a ballot measure, the name of a sponsor, or the designation of a nonprofit's legal status (e.g., "501(c)(4)"), or any other information beyond the name of the multipurpose organization, except as permitted under paragraph (e)."

- The disclosure of the name of a top contributor may be shortened by following specific, enumerated rules for abbreviating words and phrases or omitting certain words or phrases.

Print ad disclaimers: SB 900 imposes several requirements on the formatting, font, spacing, and order of disclaimers on certain print ads.

Large print ad disclaimers: SB 900 revises and adds further detail to the requirements for print or electronic ads displayed on a physical surface that is larger than those designed to be individually distributed, including requirements for color and location of disclosure box, text formatting, font, and size, order of disclosures, and, notwithstanding these requirements, a formula for calculating when and how the font size of the disclaimer may be reduced.

Existing law on disclosure statement for ads paid for by IE: Existing law provides that an advertisement supporting or opposing a candidate that is paid for by an independent expenditure shall include a statement that it was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate. If the advertisement was authorized or paid for by a candidate for another office, existing law requires that the expenditure instead include a statement that "This advertisement was not authorized or paid for by a candidate for this office or a committee controlled by a candidate for this office."

Revises IE disclaimer language: SB 900 instead provides that disclosure statements shall instead state, "Not paid for by candidate," and "Not paid for by a candidate for this office," respectively.

Definition: SB 900 defines "designed to be individually distributed" to mean "having a surface area of 187 square inches (e.g., 11 inches by 17 inches) or less on any exterior-facing surface."

Location of disclaimer: For print ads designed to be individually distributed, SB 900 alters the location of the disclosure area from "the bottom of at least one page" to "the bottom of at least one exterior facing surface."

FPPC Position: No position

FPPC Costs: $211,000 first year and $204,000 ongoing for 1 Legal position

4. **SB 1175 (Rubio) – Filing of Lobbyist Registration and Termination**

Status: Passed in the Senate (36-0); passed in the Assembly (73-0); concurrence vote pending in the Senate

Coauthors: Senators Choi, Umberg, and Weber Pierson

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.

Urgency clause: SB 1175 would take effect immediately upon signing by the Governor.

FPPC Position: Support

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

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

Status: Passed in the Senate (36-0); passed in the Assembly Elections Committee (7-0); passed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee (15-0)

Short Summary: SB 1432 would make several minor and clarifying changes to the PRA.

Detailed Summary:

Existing law – invitations from lobbyists: Existing law requires lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers who send any written or printed invitation to an elected state officer, candidate for elective state office, legislative official or agency official, to include on the invitation or on a letter attached to the invitation a statement that "Attendance at this event by a public official will constitute acceptance of a reportable gift." The statement must be at least as large and readable as 8-point Roman boldface type.

Increase type size requirement: SB 1432 would increase the minimum type size to 10-point.

Existing law – FPPC position classification titles: Existing law provides that a nonclerical position under the Commission shall not be included in the same class in the civil service classification plan with any position of any other department or agency.

Position classifications: SB 1432 would repeal that prohibition and instead authorize the Commission to include a nonclerical position in a class in the civil service classification plan that is separate and distinct from any position of any other department or agency.

Corrections: SB 1432 also makes other corrections.

FPPC Position: Support

FPPC Costs: Minor and absorbable

V. Bills Not Moving Forward This Year

- AB 1560 (Tangipa) – Qualification for Acting as a Lobbyist
- AB 1788 (Boerner) – Enhanced Disclosure for Nonprofit Organizations that Pay for Elected Official Travel
- AB 1840 (Sanchez) – Prohibition on Using Nonpublic Information Related to Prediction Market Contracts
- SB 1159 (Cabaldon) – Excluding AI from the Definition of "Person" and Related Terms [Note: SB 1159 is continuing to move forward, but no longer amends the PRA]
- SB 1225 (Niello and Umberg) – Preparation of Ballot Summary and Titles