(Approved December XX, 2026)

CALIFORNIA FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF HEARING, Public Session[i]
Thursday, October 15, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Adam E. Silver, Commissioner Alf W. Brandt, Commissioner Elsa Ortiz, and Commissioner E. Dotson Wilson

Executive Staff Present:

Galena West, Executive Director
Dave Bainbridge, General Counsel
Kendall L.D. Bonebrake, Chief of Enforcement
Shrdha Shah, Chief of Audits and Assistance
Jue Wang, PhD, Chief of Administration
Lindsey Nakano, Senior FPPC Legislative Counsel
Shery Yang, Communications Director

Call to Order.

Chair Silver called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

1. **Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda.**

One public comment was made.

2. **Approval of September 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes.**

MOTION: To approve the September 2026 Meeting Minutes. Moved by Commissioner Ortiz, seconded by Commissioner Brandt. The motion passed 3-0, 1 abstained.

Consent Calendar

3. **In the Matter of Michael Gatto and Joshua Meister; FPPC No. 20/945.**

MOTION: To approve Item 3. Moved by Chair Silver, seconded by Commissioner Ortiz. The motion passed 4-0.

4. **In the Matter of Stephanie Nguyen for Assembly 2022 and Stephanie Nguyen; FPPC No. 22/443.**

   Chair Silver stated that pursuant to his recusal policy he planned to recuse himself from Item 4 because Respondent Nguyen served in the Assembly during Chair Silver's tenure as Assembly Ethics Counsel. He subsequently left the hearing room for the duration of the item. Commissioner Wilson, in his role as Vice Chair, presided over Item 4 after Chair Silver recused himself. Commissioner Wilson pulled the item for discussion and suggested that it be moved to the December 3, 2026 Commission meeting. The Respondents' counsel, Mr. Gary Winuk, made public comment.

MOTION: To move Item 4 to the December 3, 2026 Commission meeting. Moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Ortiz. The motion passed 3-0.

5-10. General Items

5. **CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS).**

   Secretary of State's (SOS) Hyla Wagner, Laura Shultz, and John Heinlein presented the item. CGI, the vendor of the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) Project, had Denise Tower, Crystal Phan, Rebekah Kale, and Michael Laperche present the demonstration. Commissioner Wilson asked what resources would be available to the public while using the new platform. Ms. Shultz responded that SOS staff would offer extended hours during launch to answer questions by phone and email. Commissioner Brandt asked what lessons had been learned during the development of CARS. Mr. Heinlein said a key lesson was that each phase should undergo full user acceptance testing, be demonstrated to the stakeholder community, and incorporate feedback before launch. Chair Silver asked what factors would be taken into consideration prior to a go-

live launch date. Mr. Heinlein answered that a thorough readiness assessment is taken into consideration to determine whether the system is ready to meet user needs before a launch date. Ms. Shultz answered Commissioner Ortiz that an attestation will be used as an electronic signature over a digital signature for filers. Commissioner Wilson highlighted the importance of local filers being proactive in being trained on how to properly use CARS.

6. **CAL-ACCESS Outputs.**

   Education & External Affairs Unit Manager Chloe Hackert presented the item. Ms. Hackert stated that the FPPC will be working closely with SOS to host joint trainings for filers and filing officers regarding these new process changes. Commissioner Wilson asked if a form can be edited for an error after it has been submitted. Ms. Shultz answered they will be able to make an amendment to the form.

MOTION: To approve forms to be used in a digital format to create the output through the CARS system. Moved by Commissioner Brandt, seconded by Chair Silver. The motion passed 4-0.

7. **Assignment of Hearing to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ): In the Matter of Debbie Moser, FPPC No. 24/946.**

   Chief of Enforcement Kendall Bonebrake pulled the item. Settlement was achieved and will come forth on the December agenda.

8. **Legislative Update.**

   FPPC Senior Legislative Counsel Lindsey Nakano presented the item. Ms. Nakano reported that all FPPC-sponsored bills passed by the Legislature were signed by the Governor. Chair Silver congratulated Ms. Nakano and staff on their excellent work this

legislative session. Ms. Nakano stated that legislative ideas for 2027 will be presented at the next Commission meeting in December.

9. Executive Staff Reports.

Chief Bonebrake presented the Enforcement Division Staff Report as submitted. Ms. Bonebrake highlighted the significant uptick in complaints received from years 2024 and 2025; however, the Intake team has been able to process the complaints at a higher volume year-to-date compared to previous years. Ms. Bonebrake attributed the rise in complaints to the election year and potentially complainants using AI to more easily prepare complaints.

Chief of Audits Shah presented the Audits and Assistance Division Staff Report as submitted.

General Counsel Bainbridge presented the Legal Division Staff Report as submitted. Mr. Bainbridge highlighted pre-election efforts in receiving a list of people who missed the first pre-election filing deadline from local filing officers. 139 referrals were received and 122 have come into compliance for an 88% success rate.

Chief of Administration Dr. Wang presented the Administration and Technology Division Staff Report as submitted.

Executive Director West highlighted that two of the staff working on the CARS project from SOS are former FPPC employees.

10. Commissioner Comments and Proposed Future Agenda Items.

Chair Silver noted that the November Commission meeting had been rescheduled for December 3, 2026. Commissioner Wilson asked the Commission to consider whether

cases involving candidates on the ballot should be withheld from consideration for a specified period before an election.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Davina Vo
Commission Assistant
Approved December XX, 2026

Adam E. Silver, Chair
Fair Political Practices Commission

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[i] *Microsoft Co-Pilot assisted in creating these minutes. Content produced using Co-Pilot was reviewed for accuracy by Commission staff before publication.*