



Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

December 6, 2011

Chair Ann Ravel and Commissioners  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Regulation 18227.5 / Item 25 (December 8, 2011)**

Dear Chair Ravel and Commissioners:

I am writing to comment on the FPPC's proposed amendments to Regulation 18227.5 and to suggest adding language to clarify the responsibilities of general purpose committees that spend money to influence local elections.

Each election cycle, the City of Los Angeles sees hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars spent on independent expenditures. And a significant percentage of these expenditures come from committees that would qualify as either state or county general purpose committees under Regulation 18227.5. It is critical that local voters be informed of who is spending money to influence their elections. However, some committees incorrectly interpret Regulation 18227.5, along with Government Code § 82009.5(b), to mean that they are not required to comply with the City's disclosure and disclaimer requirements for independent expenditures.

We have communicated regarding this issue with Commission Counsel Hyla Wagner, who has been very helpful, and we are pleased to see that the draft of Regulation 18227.5 contains a comment stating the FPPC's position that local disclosure rules apply to independent expenditures in local elections, regardless of the committee's status as a state or county general purpose committee. However, we believe that the regulation would be made stronger by including similar language in a specific subsection. For this reason, we suggest adding the following to Regulation 18227.5:

(h) *Jurisdictional filings.* Notwithstanding subsection (b), a jurisdiction's filing and disclosure requirements apply to expenditures that a general purpose committee incurs to support or oppose a candidate, ballot measure, or qualification of a ballot measure in that jurisdiction, regardless of whether the committee is a state, county, or city general purpose committee.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and to work with FPPC staff regarding changes to the regulations. Please let us know if we can provide further input.

Sincerely,

Heather Holt  
Executive Director

cc: Hyla Wagner, FPPC Commission Counsel