

Apr 3, 2012

Commission Chair Ann Ravel  
428 J Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Proposed Regulation 18412**

Dear Commission Chair Ravel,

Thank you for addressing the unique concerns facing nonprofit organizations involved in ballot measure campaigns in California. An increasing number of important policy decisions affecting communities statewide are made by voters at the ballot box. Therefore, it is important that nonprofits be able to advocate freely for and against ballot measures based on the needs of the communities they represent.

I encourage the Commission to adopt a regulation that would allow all nonprofit organizations in California to feel comfortable speaking up for marginalized communities, low-income communities, communities of color, immigrants, children, women's rights, civil rights, community health, and consumer rights to the fullest extent possible. Under the Commission's current rules, nonprofit organizations have to balance the need to speak up for their communities against the burden of filing as a recipient committee, which may require an organization to file numerous campaign reports, possibly hire a campaign treasurer, and learn more about campaign finance than the average organization is equipped to handle.

These overly complicated rules place too much of a burden on organizations that do only a small amount of activity, and discourage many nonprofits from fully engaging with their constituents on how ballot measures will impact their lives.

I encourage the Commission to create a clear exception that would allow organizations that do only a small amount of ballot measure activity each year (less than \$25,000 for statewide ballot measures or \$10,000 for local ballot measures) to file as major donor or independent expenditure committees, rather than as recipient committees. Such an exception will allow organizations to devote a small amount of resources to educating constituents about how a measure will impact their lives, without having to become experts in campaign finance law.

Thank you for considering the burdens placed on nonprofits by the current rule structure.

Sincerely,

Individual's Name and Address

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**Note:** The enclosed letter was sent on behalf of the following individuals:

Alex Walker	Jinx Hydeman	Tim Little	Mary Etta Moose
Daniel Penunuri	Dennis Crean Jr.	Max Kaehn	Janice Glasser
Carol Savary	Colleen Lobel	Ivan Rarick	Shannon Proulx
Rosemary Shahan	Jere Wilkerson	Amahra Hicks	Edwin Miller
Doug Green	Hilda Cruz	Matt Woolery	Cristina Gonzalez
Marjorie Murray	Susan Rowe	Judith Glenn	Dinda Evans
Scott Chan	Lindsay Ryder	Michael Tomczyszyn	Mark Salamon
Ted Fishman	Mary Lou Finley	Vincent Patti	Ms. Carla Compton,
Howard Cohen	Christine Frisco	Michael W Evans	Advocate/Activist/Humanist
Gaile Carr	Maryellen Redish	Shukry Cattan	