



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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To: Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz, Garrett, Montgomery and Rotunda

From: Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division

Subject: Report of Division Activities

Date: July 31, 2012

Statements of Economic Interests – Form 700

Annual statements for judges are being reviewed for compliance with newly adopted FPPC Regulation 18313.6. The FPPC has established a voicemail and email system for judges to forward redaction requests and judges will have an opportunity to review the redaction before online posting. To date, approximately 50 judges have made redaction requests.

TAD staff still spends considerable time in filling SEI requests for paper copies. Over 4,700 statements have been requested and over 22,400 pages copied. These numbers would be considerably higher if statements were not posted online.

TAD staff is expecting to request approval the 2012/13 Form 700 at the Commission's October meeting. Staff is currently revising the form to include possible new legislation and well as suggestions from state and local filing officers.

Advice Requests

During the last two weeks of July, several consultants and sometimes all eight consultants were on the line to address advice calls relating to the July 31, 2012, filing deadline for all campaign committees and lobbying filers. Email advice requests average 20 per day.

Agency Reports and Fact Sheets

As reported last month, the Form 806-Agency Report of Public Official Appointments was posted on the website and staff continues to receive a significant number of advice calls related to the new procedures.

A fact sheet related to tickets to non-profit and political fundraising events was posted on the website. The "frequently asked questions" section provides written advice to the most common advice requests from local and state officials.

Election Reports

Political Reform Consultants Barbara Smith and Sandy Johnson continue to update the election reports that disclose the top donors to committees formed to support and oppose state ballot measures that have qualified for the ballot.

Campaign Forms and Manuals

Revised campaign form instruction pages were circulated for public comment during July and are an agenda item for adoption at this meeting. The instructions address changes in legislation and regulations. Several members of the staff are working with me on updating the campaign manuals. This project requires significant staff resources and research but is one of the Division's top priorities.

Seminars, Outreaches, Webinars

Staff has made a concerted effort to structure training for local candidates. In light of the Durkee matter, we strive to ensure that treasurers are informed that they are accountable for accurate reporting and recordkeeping, and responsible for the proper expenditure of campaign funds. Many campaign committees on the local level have little experience and our training explains the “nuts and bolts” of campaign reporting in a user-friendly manner.

In order to reach out to potential audiences, we have advertised through the city and county email lists, and sent emails to candidates inviting them to attend our workshops. To date most workshops have been in Northern California. Several seminars in Southern California are planned in August. Attendance has been high at our workshops and attendees express gratitude such as: "Best presentation of this kind of information that I've seen in 15 years!" and "Fantastic job – very knowledgeable."

To maximize our training efforts in connection with the upcoming November election we have made presentations to central committees, local campaign filing officers and candidates and treasurers. Assistant Division Chief Dixie Howard traveled to Anaheim to make a presentation for the Democratic Party, stressing the importance of timely and accurate reporting for county central committees. Manager Trish Mayer made a well-received candidate/treasurer presentation in Santa Clara. Political Reform Consultant Sarah Olson made well-attended presentations to campaign filing officers in Sacramento, and to candidates and treasurers in Los Altos Hills and in Contra Costa County. Political Reform Consultant Barbara Smith made two candidate/treasurer presentations; one in Napa and one in Shasta County. Political Reform Consultant Alex Castillo made campaign filing officer presentations in Napa and in Santa Clara.

This year local agencies must prepare biennial reports regarding the status of agency conflict-of-interest codes. To assist them in this process, seminars were held in Sacramento and Los Altos Hills by Political Reform Consultant, Ivy Branaman. Division staff also provides outreach efforts to agencies that need education on how to process the Form 700s for its employees. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Fisher recently met with staff at the Department of Fish and Game and has several other visits scheduled in August.

Conflict-of-Interest Codes

Approved amendments and adoptions to conflict-of-interest codes include:

State Agencies:

Department of Transportation
California Residential Mitigation Program

Multi-County Agencies:

East Bay Municipal Utility District, Marin-Somona Mosquito and Vector Control District,
Sacramento County Office of Education, Fall River Resource Conservation District, Reclamation
District 817, Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District