



## 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:** March 5, 2012

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### **Advice Service**

The telephone advice line continues to receive between 150 and 200 calls a day and the email advice has significantly increased with over 650 emails a month. Email advice is answered by the Division's three Political Reform Consultant IIs; Barbara Smith, Cynthia Jones and Sarah Olson. I expect March to be one of our busiest months due to the Form 700 filing deadline for most government employees, campaign filing deadlines for measures/candidates listed on the June ballot and quarterly reports due from ballot measure committees and lobbying filers.

### **Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests**

The 2011/12 Form 700 along with accompanying documents was posted the first week of January. Staff worked until 8:30 p.m. on March 1, 2012, so that the forms for state elected officials could be posted the following day by 9:00 a.m. In addition, considerable time was spent coordinating with staff from the 58 courts and Office of Administration in preparing to post the Form 700s for judges.

### **Form 802, Agency Report: Distribution of Tickets and Passes**

On February 29, 2012 an Interested Persons meeting was held to receive comments on a revised Form 802. Representatives from local agencies and a state agency participated. Staff will present the form for approval at the April Commission meeting.

### **Informational Resources**

Staff continues to develop several types of informational material. In early January, staff developed two fact sheets: one addressing campaign fraud and another summarizing the filing locations for general purpose committees in response to the regulatory change adopted by the Commission in December. In addition, revisions were made to the lobbyist fact sheet and a gift reporting fact sheet.

In February, the 2012 version of the Political Reform Act was posted on the website. This year, a version is available in a format that highlights the new statutory changes from 2011. In addition, at Manager Trish Mayer's suggestion, the legislative bills amending the Act are posted which will prove to be extremely helpful to the public as an ongoing reference tool.

Staff is working with the legal division in preparing a fact sheet that outlines the campaign ad disclaimer provisions. The document is expected to be posted for public comment in the near future.

Recently staff developed customized filing schedules for the following upcoming local elections: Temecula Valley Unified School District and Hemet Unified School District Joint School Facilities Authority Ballot Measure Election on January 10, 2012; City of San Bernardino Candidate Runoff Election on February 7, 2012; City of Lone Recall Election on February 28, 2012; the Newcastle Fire Protection District Parcel Tax Measure Election, the Sonoma Valley Health Care District Ballot Measure Election, and the Yolo County School Board Election on March 6, 2012; the Arcadia School District Parcel Tax Election on March 13, 2012; the San Geronio Memorial Health Care Ballot Measure Election on May 1, 2012; and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District Ballot Measure Election, the Moraga School District Ballot Measure Election, and the Santa Clara Unified & Saratoga Union School District Ballot Measure Election on May 8, 2012.

### **Election Reports**

In 2012, staff will post election reports that disclose the top donors to committees formed to support and oppose state ballot measures that have qualified for the ballot. The first report was published in February and a report will also be published following the March 22, 2012 filing deadline.

### **Seminars, Outreaches, Webinars**

Since the last report, the division has conducted a new webinar and workshops for local filing officers. In mid February, Barbara Smith presented a workshop to local filing officers on their Form 700 administrative duties, and Sarah Olson made a webinar presentation to state agency Form 700 filing officers. In addition, Alex Castillo met with staff at the Board of Equalization to provide an overview of their Form 700 filing officer duties, and Dixie Howard provided Form 700 training to staff at the Riverside Sheriff's Department. We are also working on a press roundtable presentation scheduled for the end of March.

### **Conflict-of-Interest Codes**

Approved amendments to conflict-of-interest codes include:

State Agencies:

State Mandates; CalPERS, Department of Insurance, Water Resources Control Board, State Board of Education, Resources, Recycling & Recovery Department, Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (adoption), Department of Child Support Services, State Compensation Insurance Fund.

Multi-County Agencies:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, Golden State Risk Management Authority, Transbay, Fresno County Fire Protection District, CA Virtual Education Partners (adoption), Freeport Regional Water Authority, Options for Youth, Para Los Ninos, Incorporated, Taylion Virtual Academies of California, Nevada Irrigation District, San Geronio Pass Water Agency (adoption), Metropolitan Water District, San Joaquin Delta Community College, Cooperative Personnel Services, Tulalake Fire District (adoption), Upper Santa Clara Valley JPA, Tulare Local Health Care District (adoption), Dinuba Unified School District, and the CA Health Benefit Exchange.