



Public Ethics Commission | CITY OF  
**OAKLAND**

## Item 6 - Disclosure Report

Ryan Micik, Chair  
Francis Upton IV, Vice Chair  
Alea Gage  
Charlotte Hill  
Vincent Steele  
Karun Tilak

Nicolas Heidorn, Executive Director

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TO: Public Ethics Commission  
FROM: Alex Van Buskirk, Lead Analyst, Compliance and Disclosure  
Jelani Killings, Lead Analyst, Education and Engagement  
DATE: June 26, 2024  
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the July 10, 2024,  
Regular PEC Meeting

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This memorandum provides a summary of major accomplishments in the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) Disclosure and Engagement program activities since the last regular meeting. Commission staff disclosure activities focus on improving online tools for public access to local campaign finance and other disclosure data, enhancing compliance with disclosure rules, and conducting data analysis for Public Ethics Commission projects and programs as required. Engagement activities include training and resources provided to the regulated community, as well as general outreach to Oakland residents to raise awareness of the Commission's role and services and to provide opportunities for dialogue between the Commission and community members.

### Compliance with Disclosure Requirements

Commission staff conducts filing officer duties as required by state and local law and aims to help candidates, lobbyists and City officials submit required disclosure reports and ensure residents can easily access campaign finance, lobbyist, and ethics-related data and information.

**Campaign Finance Disclosure** – The second semi-annual statement deadline is upcoming, on July 31, 2024, and covers activity through June 30, 2024. The pre-election deadlines related to the November 5, 2024, election are September 26, 2024, and October 24, 2024.

Campaign statements are available to view and download at the Public Ethics Commission's [Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure](#). Campaign finance data, graphs, and visualizations are available via Commission-sponsored apps [Show Me the Money](#), [OpenDisclosure](#), [Oakland's Open Data portal](#), and links on the Public Ethics Commission website.

Note that several Open Data portal sources related to campaign finance are back online. These data sources went offline following the 2023 Citywide ransomware attack and were no longer updating. Commission staff worked with the Information Technology Department to repair the datasets and these various campaign finance schedules (e.g., Schedule A – Monetary Contributions and Schedule E – Payments Made) are now back online, updating at regular intervals for the public to utilize.

**Lobbyist Registration Program** – The Oakland Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) requires any person that qualifies as a lobbyist to register annually with the Commission before conducting any lobbying activity. Registration renewals were due January 31. To date, 54 lobbyists have registered with the City of Oakland for 2024.



In November 2023, the Oakland City Council adopted amendments to the Lobbyist Registration Act including a new annual lobbyist registration fee as well as a requirement that lobbyists take an online training provided by the Commission. To date, 50 lobbyists have taken the online training provided by the Commission and the Commission has received new annual lobbyist registration fees from over two-thirds of the registered lobbyists. Commission staff is monitoring online training and new fee payment activity to ensure compliance by registered lobbyists.

April 30, 2024, was the deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024 (Quarter 1). Lobbyists reported 135 contacts with Oakland public officials during the first quarter (49 contacts were with City Councilmembers and the Office of the Mayor).

An up-to-date list of registered lobbyists and lobbyist activity reports with links to view and download individual reports is available at the Public Ethics Commission's [Lobbyist Dashboard and Data](#) webpage.

### **Advice and Engagement**

The Commission's Engagement program seeks to ensure Oakland public servants, candidates for office, lobbyists, and City contractors understand and comply with City campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws.

**Advice and Technical Assistance** – Between May 2024 and June 2024, Commission staff responded to 2 requests for information, advice or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues.

**New Employee Orientation** – Commission staff continues to make presentations at the City's monthly New Employee Orientation (NEO) providing new employees with an introduction to the Public Ethics Commission and overview of the Government Ethics Act (GEA).

On June 12, 2024, new employees watched the Commission's 10-minute GEA Introductory video providing an overview of the City's ethics rules. Employees required to file Form 700 were also assigned the Commission's mandatory online Government Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers.

### Online Engagement

**Social Media** – Commission staff has continued producing monthly social media content highlighting the Commission’s upcoming meetings, how to file an enforcement complaint, and transparency requirements for political ads and candidate’s social media accounts.