



## Item 08 - Disclosure Report

Ryan Micik, Chair  
Francis Upton IV, Vice Chair  
Alea Gage  
Vincent Steele  
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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: September 25, 2024  
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the October 9, 2024,  
Public Ethics Commission 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 first pre-election filing deadline for the November election falls on September 26, 2024. All candidates on the November ballot must file. Candidates raising or spending \$2,000 or more file their campaign statements on the FPPC Form 460. Candidates intending to keep their campaign activity under \$2,000 must file the FPPC Form 470. Ballot measure committees and other recipient committees with fundraising or spending activity connected with the November ballot must also file for the pre-election deadline.

After the September 26, 2024, pre-election deadline, Commission staff will screen campaign statements for untimely and unreported late contributions and independent expenditures and assess late fees as required.

Commission staff completed a surface review of campaign finance filings for activity between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024. No committees with reportable activity were found to have overages related to contributions received.

Thus far in September 2024 (through September 24, 2024), there has been a reported \$57,176 in independent expenditure spending across three City Council races, specifically for the City Council District At-Large, City Council District 1, and City Council District 3 seats.

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

Note that NetFile ended functionality for its now-deprecated API endpoint utilized by the [Oakland's Open Data portal](#). Commission staff is working closely with the Information Technology Department on a remedy with NetFile's new, updated API for the Open Data portal. The Commission's most-used disclosure tools, the Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure, Show Me the Money, and Open Disclosure Oakland, are not impacted.

**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 are registered with the City of Oakland for 2024.

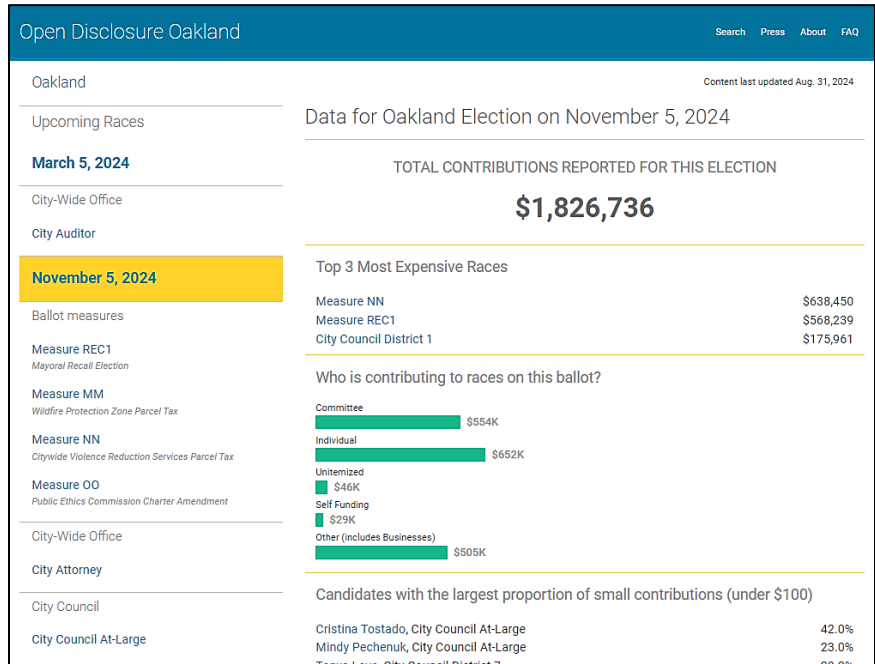


In November 2023, the Oakland City Council adopted amendments to the Lobbyist Registration Act including a new annual lobbyist registration fee as well as a requirement that lobbyists take an online training provided by the Commission. To date, all 54 lobbyists have taken the online training provided by the Commission. The Commission has received new annual lobbyist registration fees from 53 registered lobbyists, and one lobbyist has received a waiver.

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.

**Illuminating Disclosure Data**

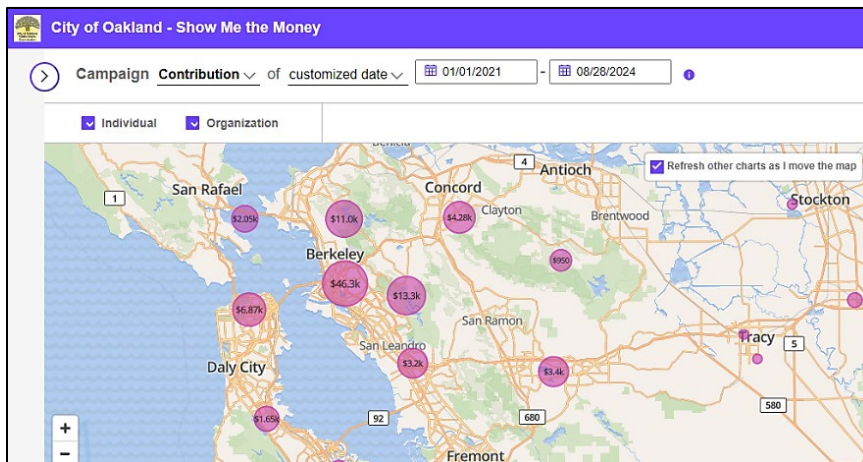
**Open Disclosure Oakland –** The [opendisclosure.io](https://opendisclosure.io) campaign finance app is live with the data for the 2023-2024 election cycle. Open Disclosure Oakland, a nonpartisan tool, was developed by volunteers from [OpenOakland](https://OpenOakland.org), a civic technologist group, in partnership with Commission staff to give all Oakland residents equal access to campaign finance data. The Open Disclosure Oakland website shows funds donated to both political candidates and



ballot measure committees and provides clear summaries of money raised and spent as well as financial trends for each election. The website also includes a search function that makes campaign donation records easy to search and sort, and allows users to search campaign donors by name across multiple campaigns and elections.

Open Disclosure Oakland is updated daily with data imported directly from the [City's campaign finance database](#) and includes a notification system that sends subscribers alerts about new campaign reports.

**“Show Me the Money” Campaign Finance Mapping** – The City of Oakland [“Show Me the Money”](#) app is live with 2024 campaign finance data. “Show Me the Money” builds a map showing the geographic source of campaign contributions to candidates and totals donated from that location. Oakland residents can dig deeper by clicking each location point, and the



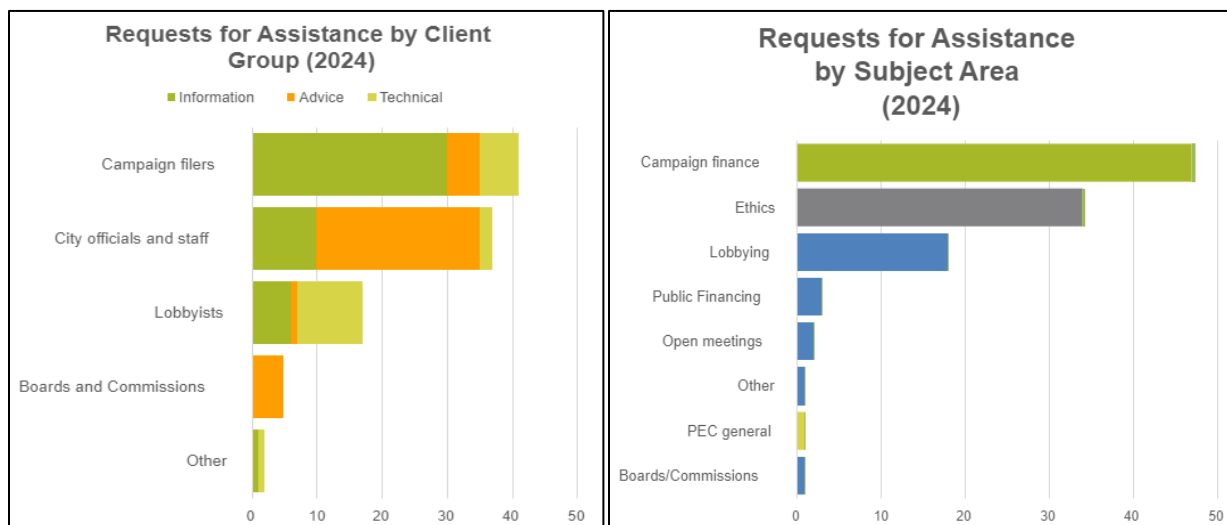
application will reveal the names of top contributors from that area. Up to three candidates may be selected at a time for comparison. Features beyond the contribution map include allowing users to review campaign contribution trends and campaign spending patterns.

Like the Commission’s other campaign finance projects, this app is updated daily with data imported directly from the [City’s campaign finance database](#). Followers of Oakland elections can find the “Show Me the Money” app via links on the Commission’s website, [Oakland’s Open Data portal](#), and Open Disclosure Oakland candidate pages.

## 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** – In September 2024, Commission staff responded to 8 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 September 18, Commission staff provided an overview of the City’s ethics rules to new City employees. Employees required to file Form 700 were also assigned the Commission’s mandatory online Government Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers.

**Candidates and Campaigns** – As part of our continuing campaign education efforts, Commission staff issues routine advisories to ensure that candidates and committees are aware of local rules during this election season. In September, Commission staff sent an advisory to remind candidates receiving public financing of the debate requirement to ensure compliance with the Limited Public Financing Act.