



California

**Common
Cause**



December 7, 2022

Chair Arvon Perteet
Vice-Chair Ryan Micik
Commissioner Charlotte Hill
Commissioner Joseph Tuman
Commissioner Francis Upton IV

Public Ethics Commission, City of Oakland

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your support of Measure W, the Oakland Fair Elections Act. Oakland voters agreed with you – almost 75 percent of voters supported Measure W in our recent election. The Public Ethics Commission will be central to the successful implementation of the Oakland Fair Elections Act and the Oakland Fair Elections coalition intends to support you along the way.

The PEC will have to take the first steps toward implementation without a permanent executive director in place, despite your recruiting efforts earlier this year. **We urge you to make recruitment a top priority and to use all available means, including employing a search firm, to ensure you are successful.** We have begun disseminating the recently posted job description among our networks. With that in mind, **we respectfully suggest that you consider extending the timeline for responses beyond early January** due to the extreme difficulty of recruiting in the holiday timeframe and the possibility that a deadline immediately following a national holiday, when many people will be focused on family and travel, may impede interest.

In addition to the executive director search, we urge you to take all actions possible to make the implementation of the Democracy Dollars program a top priority.

As you are well aware, the Fair Elections Act is game-changing legislation. It will bring an unprecedented measure of transparency and equity to Oakland elections. You may have seen from the post-election coverage that analysts and advocates of small donor financing programs across the country and throughout California have their eyes on Oakland. Success here will

confirm that a Democracy Dollars program can support candidates without ties to large donors and dramatically boost participation in our elections by residents of all classes, races, ages, and ethnicities.

Members of our coalition have worked for years to reach this point and are very committed to making Oakland's program a resounding success. Effective implementation is important first and foremost for Oakland and its communities, but also for the other cities in California and nationwide who hope to learn by our example. We and others in our coalition hope to do everything we can support your efforts and those of the Commission staff, however you deem helpful. We plan to attend PEC meetings so we can stay aware of your process and be ready to engage.

We hope you are as excited as we are to do this work. It is an opportunity to make meaningful and fundamental change in our local democratic processes.

Sincerely,



League of Women Voters of Oakland
Viola Gonzales, President



California Common Cause
Jonathan Mehta Stein, Executive Director