

ATTACHMENT 8



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Jill M. Butler
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Jerett Yan

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: February 20, 2020
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Report

This memorandum provides a summary of the Public Ethics Commission's (PEC or Commission) Disclosure and Engagement program activities since the last monthly 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 PEC 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.

Filing Officer - Compliance

Campaign finance disclosure – Two Oakland elections are scheduled this year: a special election on March 3 and the general election on November 3, 2020. Three local measures are certified for Oakland's March 3, 2020, Special Election - Measures Q, R and S - and committees engaging in campaign activity to support or oppose measures on the March 3 ballot are subject to pre-election disclosure deadlines on January 23 and February 20. Two ballot measure committees are registered in connection with a proposed parcel tax, Measure Q, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Preservation, Litter Reduction, and Homelessness Support Act.

To date, almost \$300,000 in contributions have been reported in connection with Measure Q, \$177,000 to support and \$94,264 to oppose. In addition, \$205,835 worth of independent expenditures to oppose the measure have been reported so far by two state committees formed by realtors.

In addition to March pre-election reports, all Oakland registered committees were required to submit semi-annual campaign statements by January 31 for the period from July 1 through December 31, 2019. The ninety statements received are now undergoing facial review.

Twenty-four candidates have declared their intention to run for Oakland offices. Only nine candidates registered campaign committees for the November election so far. The 2020 candidate committees reported \$226,856 in contributions raised. Approximately 93 percent of reported contributions were \$100 or more. Of those itemized contributions, 39 percent came from individuals with Oakland addresses.

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Illuminating Disclosure Data

Lobbyist e-filing – Commission staff continues to meet weekly with IT staff to refine the lobbyist reporting app utilizing the [OakApps](#) portal. The IT Department assigned an additional developer to fast-track work on the administrative system portion of the app as we approach the first 2020 reporting deadline on April 30.

Open Disclosure – Commission staff continues to act as product manager for the campaign finance website <http://www.opendisclosure.io>, produced in partnership with Open Oakland volunteers. This month, team members successfully added the March and November 2020 election pages to the development site and connected to the current data. The team also worked on updated designs to incorporate highlights from the election data to the home page, such as the percentage of contributions originating in Oakland and top independent expenditures.

Advice and Engagement

New Employee Orientation – Staff continues to make presentations at the City’s monthly New Employee Orientation (NEO) providing new employees with an introduction to the PEC and overview of the Government Ethics Act (GEA). On February 19, staff trained 40 new employees on GEA provisions.

Boards and Commissions – On January 30 and 31, Commission staff held ethics trainings for the City’s board and commission members. Ninety-two board and commission members received training on provisions of the Government Ethics Act including Form 700 requirements, conflicts of interests, gift rules, misuse of City resources/position, and revolving door rules. Additional trainings in the works for board and commission members unable to attend in January.

Candidates and Campaigns – Commission staff has been coordinating with the Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) to host a candidate and treasurer training on both state and local campaign rules. The training date has been set for Wednesday, April 8 and will cover topics such as recordkeeping, campaign forms, advertisement disclaimers, local expenditure ceilings and contributions limits, as well as the Limited Public Financing Program.

Campaign Rules for Public Servants – Requests for information and advice increased in connection with multiple disclosure deadlines and the upcoming primary. Commission staff received several inquiries from City officials and staff related to ballot measure activities in connection with the March primary election. In response, staff issued an advisory flyer highlighting state and local rules surrounding campaign activity by City staff and officials for wider reach.

Online Engagement

Social Media – Each month Commission staff post social media content to highlight specific PEC policy areas, activities or client-groups. In February, our posts focused on 2020 contribution limits and campaign finance resources.