

Item 11 - Disclosure Report



Ryan Micik, Chair
Charlotte Hill, Vice Chair
Alea Gage
Arvon J. Perteeet
Vincent Steele
Francis Upton IV

Nicolas Heidorn, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Program Manager
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
DATE: September 29, 2023 (Corrected October 18, 2023)
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the October 25, 2023, Special Meeting

This memo has the same content as the September 29, 2023, memo for the cancelled October 11, 2023, PEC meeting, with the exception that the Advice and Engagement section has been corrected to remove text inadvertently added to the last line under Candidates and Campaigns.

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 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 – On August 18, the Oakland City Clerk certified the candidates for the local positions on Oakland's November 2023 Special Election ballot. 2 candidates qualified for ballot status and 1 has a registered campaign committee. In addition, 15 candidates have submitted statements of intent to run for office in the November 2024 General Election.

July 31 marked the campaign statement deadline for all registered committees for activity between January 1 and June 30, 2023. All candidates on the November 2023 ballot required to file have filed their statements. The following 12 committees were assessed late fees:

Committee
COALITION TO ELECT VALARIE BACHELOR FOR SCHOOL BOARD 2022
Committee to Elect Allyssa Victory for Oakland Mayor 2022
Committee to Support Pecolia Manigo for Oakland School Director 2022
East Bay Community Foundation
Kenny Session for District 6 2022
Loren Taylor for City Council 2018 Officeholder Committee
Oakland Public School Action 2020
OROZCO MAX SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR DISTRICT 2 2022
Sheng Thao for Oakland Mayor 2022
Van Cedric Williams for Oakland Unified School Board Seat 3, 2020
Whitaker for Oakland City Council 2018
ZAZABOI FOR OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 2022; YAKPASUA

Item 11 - Disclosure Report

Disclosure and Engagement Report
September 29, 2023 (Corrected October 18, 2023)

5 non-filers remain, 2 of which are long-term, non-responsive committees from prior elections previously referred to the FPPC for enforcement. PEC staff referred the following committees to the FPPC for enforcement:

Committee	Treasurer	Candidate
Annie Campbell Washington 2014 Officeholder Committee	CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, ANNIE	CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, ANNIE
Annie Campbell Washington for Oakland City Council 2018	CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, ANNIE	CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, ANNIE
LOWE FOR CITY COUNCIL 2022; HAROLD	LOWE, ANDREA	LOWE, HAROLD
OROZCO MAX SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR DISTRICT 2 2022	OROZCO, MAXIMINO	OROZCO, MAXIMINO
VELASQUEZ FOR OAKLAND SCHOOL BOARD 2022; JOEL	RASMUSSEN, KRISTIN	VELASQUEZ, JOEL

The first pre-election filing deadline for the November election was on September 28, 2023. All candidates on the November 2023 ballot were required to file. Candidates raising or spending \$2,000 or more file their campaign statements on FPPC Form 460. Candidates intending to keep their campaign under \$2,000 must file 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 deadline, staff will screen campaign statements for untimely and un-reported late contributions and independent expenditures and assess late fees as required.

Campaign statements are available to view and download at the PEC's [Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure](#).

Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Program – The Oakland Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) requires lobbyists to submit quarterly reports disclosing their lobbying activities to ensure that the public knows who is trying to influence City decisions. The next deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports is on October 30 and covers the period from July 1 through September 30, 2023.

Lobbyist registration and activity reports may be viewed online at the [PEC's Lobbyist Dashboard and Data webpage](#).

Advice and Engagement

Advice and Technical Assistance – In the months of August and September, Commission staff responded to 51 requests for information, advice, or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues, for a total of 172 in 2023 to date.

Form 700 Compliance – On August 15, Staff met with representatives from the City Clerk's Office and the Department of Human Resources Management to get an update on efforts to improve the

Item 11 - Disclosure Report

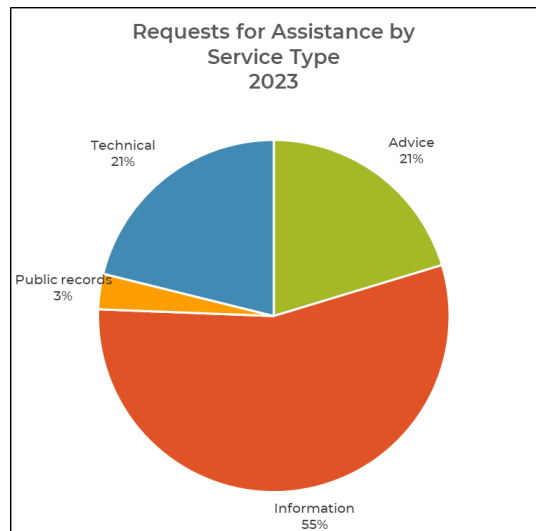
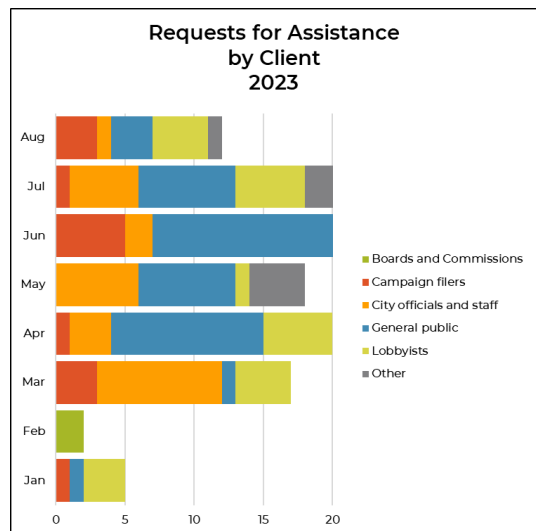
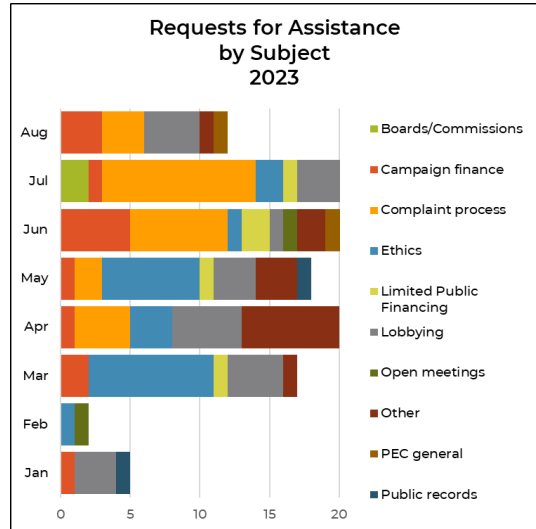
Disclosure and Engagement Report
 September 29, 2023 (Corrected October 18, 2023)

management of the City’s Form 700 filer database. The joint effort seeks to improve compliance among required filers by sharing data among departments, issuing joint communications, and updating the City’s Conflict of Interest Code. While progress is being made with departments updating their employee filer designations, there is still a need to synchronize City data systems across departments to ensure a single, accurate Form 700 list. The working group identified the Payroll Division as needed partner in the process to update the Oracle system to require the completion of an individual’s Form 700 designation. Next Steps include sending a joint letter to the City’s Oracle Steering Committee to prioritize updating the Form 700 Filer field in Oracle.

Candidates and Campaigns – As part of campaign education efforts, staff issues regular advisories to ensure that candidates and committees are aware of local rules during election time. In August, staff issued an advisory about new independent expenditure disclosure requirements and provided a link to an online form.

Lobbyists – On September 15, in response to questions about who is required to register as a lobbyist under the City’s Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) and concerns that some lobbyists are meeting with elected officials but not registering and disclosing their lobbying activities as required under Oakland law, Staff provided the Mayor and City Councilmembers with the PEC’s lobbyist registration brochure and a cover letter providing the registration and reporting requirements for individuals being paid to influence governmental decisions. The brochure was created as a resource to hand out when interacting with individuals that may be trying to influence any governmental or legislative decisions.

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 September 20, Staff trained a total of 40 new employees on GEA provisions. Employees required to file Form 700 were also assigned the PEC’s mandatory online Government Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers.



Disclosure and Engagement Report
September 29, 2023 (Corrected October 18, 2023)

Illuminating Disclosure Data

Show Me the Money – The [Show Me the Money](#) app is live with campaign finance data submitted by candidates running in the November 2023 Special Election and November 2024 General Election. [Show Me the Money](#) builds a map showing the geographic source of campaign contributions to candidates and totals donated from that location. Like the Commission’s other campaign finance projects, the app is updated daily with data exported directly from the city’s campaign finance database. Followers of Oakland elections can find the [Show Me the Money](#) application via links on the Public Ethics Commission website, [OakData portal](#), and [OpenDisclosure](#) candidate pages.

Open Disclosure – Commission staff continues to act as team leader for the campaign finance website [OpenDisclosure](#), produced in partnership with Open Oakland volunteers. Staff convened a meeting of the project team to plan site updates for the November 2023 Special Election and November 2024 General Election in August. Staff and volunteers began work in September to incorporate data from candidates for the upcoming elections, which will soon be live on [OpenDisclosure](#).

OpenDisclosure is a nonpartisan tool developed by volunteers from civic tech group OpenOakland in partnership with the Commission staff to give all Oakland residents equal access to campaign finance data. The site 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.

Ticket Use by City Officials (Form 802) – Changes to the City Ticket Distribution Policy ordinance adopted in June 2022 require modifications to the Ticket Distribution (Form 802) database maintained by the IT department. In August and September, Commission staff met with Council and IT staff to review progress on the new database and provide feedback to ensure the new database meets disclosure requirements set forth in the new policy.

Online Engagement

Social Media – Each month Commission staff posts social media content to highlight specific PEC policy areas, activities, or client-groups. Posts in August and September focused on Commissioner recruitment, PEC Annual Report, Lobbyist Registration Act amendments, the Limited Public Financing Act of 2024, and PEC meetings.

General Outreach

Commissioner Recruitment – Distribution of the Commissioner recruitment announcement and application started in August and will continue through the application deadline on October 27. Outreach channels include the Commission and City of Oakland websites, targeted email distribution lists, social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Nextdoor), local newsletters and community publications, and as well as print and digital ads in local press outlets. Local news outlet Oaklandside also published an article on opportunities to serve on the Commission. Flyers are posted around City Hall offices frequented by the public and Oakland Public Library branches. The Commissioner recruitment webpage includes information about the Commissioner role, desired skills, links to the online application, as well as more information about the Commission. Staff and Commissioners also have attended community events including a District 3 Town Hall and Art & Soul.