



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Photo: Greg Linhares, City of Oakland

Public Ethics Commission

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A SEA CHANGE FOR OAKLAND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

At the end of 2022, the Public Ethics Commission (PEC or Commission) stands poised to reshape Oakland's electoral playing field - opening new pathways enabling more Oaklanders to run for office and creating incentives for greater engagement and participation by residents in the electoral process. The passage of Measure W by Oakland voters in November 2022 augmented the responsibilities, structure and staffing of the Commission as administrator of a completely re-designed public campaign financing program. While the Commission invested a good deal of its energy into legislative reform in 2022, it also continued fulfilling its role as educator, compliance officer, data illuminator, investigator, and enforcer of Oakland's government integrity laws.

2022 Highlights

- **Campaign finance redesigned** - With the passage of Measure W, the Oakland Fair Elections Act (OFEA) took effect creating a new paradigm for financing campaigns administered by the PEC that will equip all Oaklanders with campaign "cash" to contribute to campaigns, thereby incentivizing candidates to engage across demographics regardless of wealth and history of prior political involvement.
- **Increased accountability for elected officials' use of free event tickets** - The City Council adopted the PEC's proposed Ticket Distribution Policy Ordinance, which provides clear instructions for the distribution and use of City tickets, expands the list of public purposes for which City tickets may be distributed, and updates the policy to align with state rules, including a prohibition on disproportionate use of City tickets by elected and high-level officials.
- **New training available on-demand** - New trainings covering changes to the City's new ticket distribution policy; open meeting requirements under the Sunshine Ordinance; and the PEC's administrative hearing process were delivered in-person and made available for viewing on-demand via the PEC website and City employee-training portal.
- **Campaign data illuminated** - The Commission launched updated online tools, www.OpenDisclosure.io and [Show Me the Money](#), that consolidate and visualize campaign data from the City's campaign filings database to provide more meaningful public disclosure of campaign spending for the 2022 election.
- **Enforcement Program maintains productivity** - The Enforcement Unit resolved 28 cases, imposed \$22,600 in penalties, and opened 12 proactive investigations in addition to evaluating 18 complaints of alleged violations.

The year 2022 will go down in history as a year of legislative sea-change that transformed the landscape for Oakland candidates and initiated a new era for resident participation in our local electoral process. This report summarizes these and other Commission accomplishments in 2022.

LEAD AND COLLABORATE

The Commission leads by example and employs collaborative approaches to facilitate changes in City laws, policies, systems, and technology to ensure fairness, openness, integrity, and innovation.

Expanding Equity and Participation in the Campaign Process

The Commission is heading into a major transition with the passage of Measure W, which redesigned Oakland's public financing program to a system of Democracy Dollars (similar to Seattle's [Democracy Voucher](#) Program) that will equip all Oaklanders with campaign "cash" to contribute to campaigns, thereby incentivizing candidates to engage across demographics regardless of wealth and history of prior political involvement. The new Oakland Fair Elections Act (OFEA) and associated Charter Amendments enacted by Measure W were designed to address recommendations in the Commission's 2020 **Race for Power** report and is among the Commission's major policy accomplishments.

Measure W replaces the Limited Public Financing Act with the Oakland Fair Elections Act and a newly designed public financing program to be administered by the Public Ethics Commission. Measure W also included important amendments to the Oakland Campaign Reform Act (OCRA), including revising contribution and campaign spending limits and increasing transparency in political

MISSION AND ACTIVITIES

The Public Ethics Commission was created in 1996 to ensure fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in City government. The PEC's work is governed by local ordinances in three main areas: campaign finance, transparency, and ethics. The Commission's authority and ability to do its work is guided by the provisions outlined in the City Charter, as amended in 2014, as well as in each relevant ordinance, listed as follows:

- Government Ethics Act
- Conflict of Interest Code
- Oakland Campaign Reform Act
- Lobbyist Registration Act
- Sunshine Ordinance
- Limited Public Financing Act
- False Endorsement in Campaign Literature

The Commission's activities, and the six-person staffing structure are organized by the following ethics compliance framework to ensure a strong, effective, and fair ethics commission:

Lead/Collaborate - Lead by example and facilitate City policy, management, and technological changes to further the Commission's mission.

Educate/Engage - Provide education, advice, technical assistance, and formal legal opinions to promote awareness and understanding of the City's campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws.

Disclose/Illuminate - Facilitate accurate, effective, and accessible disclosure of government integrity data, such as campaign finance reporting, conflicts of interest/gifts reports, and lobbyist activities, all of which help the public and PEC staff monitor filings, view information, and detect inconsistencies or noncompliance.

Detect/Deter - Conduct investigations and audits to monitor compliance with the laws within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Prosecute - Enforce violations of the laws within the Commission's jurisdiction through administrative or civil remedies.

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communications. Much work lies in the years ahead to implement the Democracy Dollars Program including staffing up and setting up the administrative processes, technology, outreach plan, and new policies to support the Program. While the Commission did not receive the necessary funds to distribute Democracy Dollars in the 2024 election in the 2023 - 2025 Budget due to a historic fiscal deficit, in addition to taking steps to ensure a successful Democracy Dollars launch for the 2026 election Commission staff are already educating candidates and officials so they can comply with Measure W's new campaign rules that went into effect on January 1, 2023.

Increased Accountability Added to City Ticket Policy

In 2022, the Commission's proposed policy for the distribution of free event tickets, such as tickets to City-sponsored events, events at City facilities or pursuant to City contracts, and events for which tickets are provided to the City for promotional purposes was adopted by the City Council and took effect in June. Oakland's prior policy was outdated in relation to state and local law and also created problems identified in the PEC's 2017 report, **Ensuring Ethical and Transparent Distribution of City Tickets**. The report found issues with both the policy and the process of ticket distribution and use, including large numbers of tickets (especially high-value tickets) going to elected officials, late or no disclosure regarding ticket use as required by state law, and inappropriate transfers of tickets to family members. Following the report, the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) amended state regulations in 2019 to tighten restrictions on the quantity of tickets that could be used by City officials, among other changes. The new policy enacted by ordinance aims to provide clear instructions for the distribution and use of City tickets, to expand the list of public purposes for which City tickets may be distributed, and to update the policy to align with state rules. It also articulates the PEC's prevention and enforcement responsibilities consistent with other ordinances under the Commission's jurisdiction.

Other PEC Legislation

In November 2022, Oakland voters also approved Measure X, Good Governance Charter Reform, which added setting the salaries of the City Auditor and City Attorney to the Commission's duties and adjusted the formula for the Commission to set City Councilmember salaries.

Standardizing Ethics Compliance Processes

Throughout 2022 Commission staff engaged in a cross-departmental effort to develop citywide processes to ensure that departments are uniformly communicating ethics training and Form 700 requirements to employees and consultants hired by their departments. Commission staff collaborated with the Department of Human Resources to add new features into the NeoGov personnel management platform to make sure all employees are properly notified, and department SPOC's (single point of contact) can monitor employee compliance. The database designation enables more effective noticing and tracking of Form 700 and ethics training compliance going forward. PEC ethics training assets were integrated with the City's NeoGov Learn platform so staff can utilize features to assign training, notice employees, and track compliance ahead of future Form 700 filing deadlines.

EDUCATE AND ENGAGE

Prevention activities consist of education, outreach, and online information to facilitate compliance with government integrity laws. The Commission educates and advises candidates for local elective office, elected officials, appointed officials, City staff, lobbyists, people doing business with Oakland, City residents, businesses, and organizations.

Advice and Assistance

In 2022, Commission staff responded to 305 requests for information, advice or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues, fielding an average 25 requests per month. Just over half of requests for advice and assistance came from treasurers, candidates, and law firms seeking to comply with campaign finance disclosure laws. Other questions come from lobbyists, City staff and officials, as well as members of the public regarding lobbyist disclosure rules, misuse of public resources, gift restrictions, and conflicts of interest rules, to name a few.



305 requests for information, advice, or technical assistance



800+ training participants



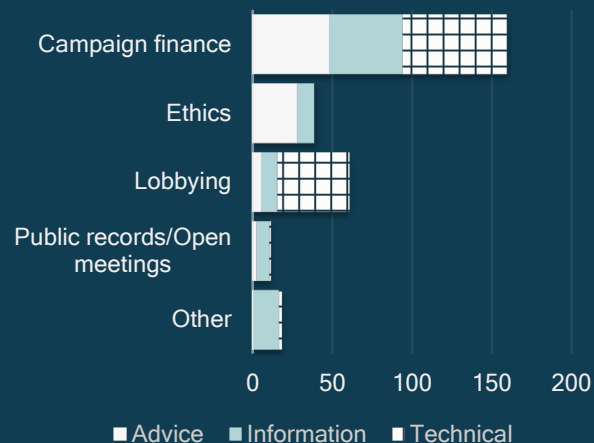
1,298 views of training content

Ethics Training

Commission staff provided ethics training through various avenues to reach over 800 participants, including the following target audiences:

- Elected officials (4) and their staff participated in an ethics check-in and training focused on the new Ticket Distribution Policy;
- New employees (450) received an ethics overview presentation at the City's monthly orientation session, and, additionally, staff conducted a live ethics training at the Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development Department's Summer Orientation reaching nearly 100 new employees;
- One hundred forty-nine City employees completed the PEC's comprehensive Government Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers, 89 through the City's online learning management system and another 60 attended four live trainings conducted by PEC Staff via Zoom;

Information, Advice, and Technical Assistance 2022



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- City staff supervisors (85 in total) received a higher-level ethics training at the City's Supervisor Academy;
- Board and Commission members and staff received introductory ethics trainings, for a total of two Commissions and all board liaisons; and
- The Commission's YouTube channel reached 1,298 viewers in 2022: 1,070 viewers watched the PEC's ten-minute ethics introductory video; another 57 viewers watched the one-hour Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers video; and 210 viewers watched training segments on specific topics such as open meeting rules, gift rules, conflicts of interests, misuse of City resources, and post-employment restrictions.

Campaign Finance Training

Commission staff proactively connected with candidates and committees early, often, and ongoing throughout the 2022 election season, including orientations for candidates as they initiated their campaign filings, as well as monthly reminders and trainings. PEC staff partnered with the Fair Political Practices Commission to provide a joint, comprehensive candidate and treasurer training on both state and local campaign rules, reaching 11 local candidates/committees. A recording was made available on the Commission website and provided to all new candidates. Commission staff also provided public financing training to candidates and their campaign staff in August to promote participation in the 2022 Limited Public Financing (LPF) program for District City Council candidates.

Seven candidates and/or campaign representatives attended the training, representing all but one of the City Council candidates certified to appear on the 2022 ballot.

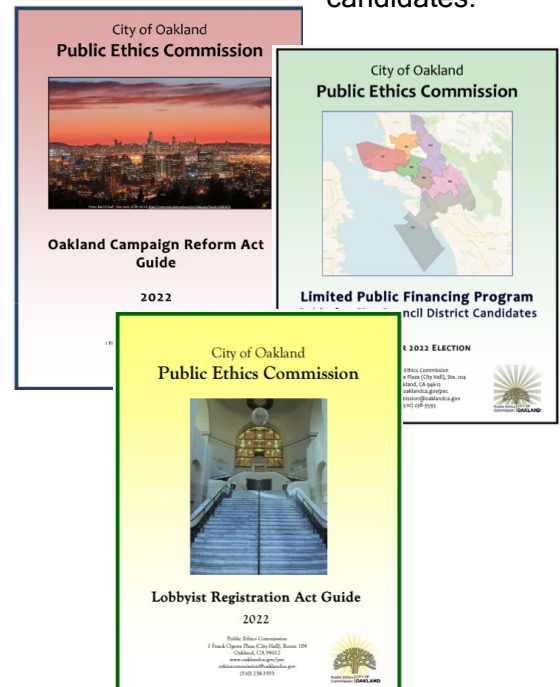
Publications

Commission staff published three updated comprehensive guides intended to assist the regulated community in complying with local laws:

- Oakland Campaign Reform Act Guide
- Limited Public Financing (LPF) Guide
- Guide to the Lobbyist Registration Act

Community Outreach

The Commission conducted outreach to ensure Oakland residents and the regulated community know about the Commission and that the Commission is responsive to their complaints and questions about government ethics, campaign finance, or transparency concerns. During the fall months, Commissioners and staff presented at five Neighborhood Council meetings to share the Commission's work and highlight opportunities to apply for Commissioner vacancies.



DISCLOSE AND ILLUMINATE

The Commission's Disclosure Program aims to help candidates, lobbyists and City officials submit required disclosure reports and ensures Oaklanders can easily access campaign finance, lobbyist, and ethics-related data and information that is accurate, user-friendly, and understandable. The goal is for the public and the PEC to be able to monitor filings, view information, and detect inconsistencies or noncompliance. This program utilizes a collaborative transparency approach, which reaches beyond the traditional minimum of providing copies of filings. The Commission proactively shares data in user-centered formats, invites participation and feedback, and facilitates shared discussion around community needs.

Illuminating Ethics Data

The Commission collects, reviews, and provides public access to ethics-related data. As part of this responsibility, Commission staff works to put the information into formats that can be searched and displayed in easy-to-use data visuals made available for public viewing and more meaningful public disclosure. Election-focused disclosure projects in 2022 included:

- [Show Me the Money](#), an app hosted on Oakland's open data platform, builds maps showing the source of campaign contributions to candidates, top contributors, and fund raising and spending patterns over time. The tool allows users to build interactive comparisons of campaign donors and expenditures.
- [Open Disclosure](#), a campaign finance website built through a partnership between Commission staff and Open Oakland, visualizes the flow of money in Oakland elections in an easy to understand, interactive format. OpenDisclosure is a nonpartisan tool developed by volunteer developers from civic tech group OpenOakland with advice and oversight from Commission staff and includes a notification system that sends subscribers alerts about new campaign reports, summaries of how much money candidates raise locally and from out-of-state donors, as well as top spenders on local ballot issues. OpenDisclosure gained nearly 6,500 new users and generated over 21,000 pageviews in 2022. Since first launching Open Disclosure in 2014, the site has reached 39,535 users with 163,293 views of OpenDisclosure content.



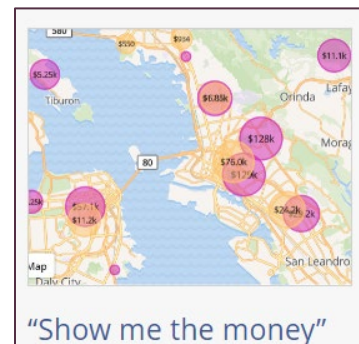
1,300+ disclosure filings processed



Over 50,000 views of disclosure content



10 public records mediations completed



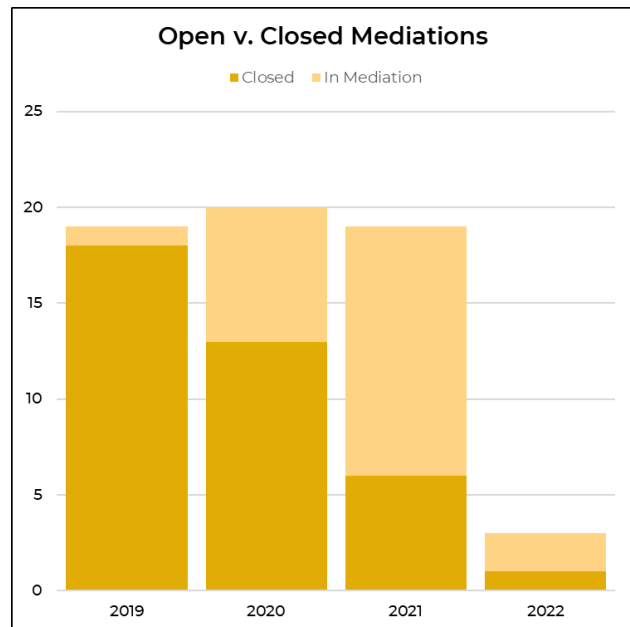
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Mediation Program

Pursuant to the Oakland Sunshine Ordinance, the Commission conducts mediations of public records requests made by members of the public to City departments for records within the department's control. The Commission received five new requests for mediation in 2022. Ten mediations were completed in 2022.

Online Engagement

In 2022, Commission staff continued producing monthly social media content highlighting PEC policy areas, activities, and topics of interest to specific client-groups ending the year with 1,766 followers.



COMPLIANCE AND DISCLOSURE

As Filing Officer, the Commission collects, reviews, and provides public access to ethics-related data.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE data includes candidate and ballot-measure campaign committee information, including contributions to and expenditures made by the committee during the election cycle. Oakland had 103 active political committees as of December 2022. Two Oakland elections were conducted in 2022, a special election on June 7 and the general election on November 8, 2022. There were six campaign statement deadlines, and PEC staff processed and reviewed almost 1,000 campaign-related filings disclosing approximately \$7 million in campaign contributions during 2022.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITED BY CITY OFFICIALS required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) must be disclosed to the Public Ethics Commission within 30 days when a political contribution of \$5,000 or more is made by a person or entity that contracts or proposes to contract with the official's department. Three solicited contributions totaling \$235,000 were disclosed in support of ballot measures on the November 2022 ballot.

LOBBYING activity reports identify who is lobbying City officials and for what purpose. In 2022, 75 lobbyists registered with the City of Oakland representing approximately 110 clients. Oakland lobbyists reported \$823,464 in payments from clients and a total of 1,197 contacts with City officials during 2022. PEC staff provides outreach and assistance to lobbyists to ensure compliance with registration and reporting requirements. Staff processed and reviewed 283 quarterly lobbyist activity reports in 2022.

BEHESTED PAYMENTS reports show who is donating to a nonprofit organization at the request or solicitation of an elected official. Elected officials who solicit such payments are required to file a Form 803 to report these payments if they amount to \$5,000 or more. In 2022, elected officials reported 15 behested payments totaling \$ \$1,935,000 benefiting local non-profits and programs.

STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS (Form 700) are filed with the City Clerk's office but are of high interest to the PEC in ensuring compliance with ethics laws that require reporting of personal financial information by City officials. Commission staff checks for elected official compliance with filing deadlines and provides education and advice regarding Form 700 filing.

ENFORCEMENT

The Commission conducts investigations, holds public hearings, issues subpoenas, and imposes fines and penalties as provided for by ordinance. City ordinances give the Commission the authority to impose penalties for violations of ethics laws, campaign finance laws, and lobbyist registration requirements. The Commission also can mediate or recommend “cure and correction” for violations of public records and open meetings laws, respectively.



51 open complaints and investigations



28 cases resolved



\$22,600 in penalties

Incoming Cases

Commission staff received a total of 18 allegations of potential violations under campaign finance, conflicts of interest, transparency, and other ethics-related laws, in 2022. Enforcement staff also received several informal complaints and initiated its own “pro-active” complaints. Enforcement staff opened four investigations in 2022 based on informal complaints and eight investigations based on pro-active complaints. At year-end, there were 51 open enforcement complaints and cases.

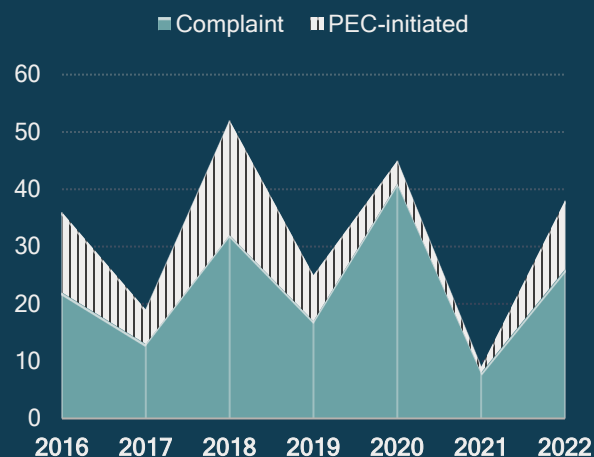
Backlog Reduced

In 2022, an Enforcement priority was resolving outstanding cases or complaints from 2016-2017. Significant progress was made towards this goal, as well as resolution of cases from 2018-2021, while maintaining a steady resolution rate on new cases in 2022. However, despite increases in both case closures and fines imposed by the Commission over the last several years, the Commission has not been able to keep pace with incoming complaints. This is due to a structural issue: the PEC’s lack of adequate Enforcement staff resources and capacity to match demand for service. Without increased staffing, the PEC’s increasingly disproportionate complaint to staff ratio will continue to result in cases that remain on the docket far longer than they should.

Enforcement Outcomes

By year end, the Commission resolved 28 cases as follows:

Case Load Remains High



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- Three fines, with \$22,600 in total penalties;
- Ten cases closed without enforcement action;
- Fifteen complaints dismissed (10 for lack of jurisdiction, 2 for insufficient evidence to support investigation; 1 due to another agency already investigating; 1 referred to another agency; and 1 withdrawn by complainant).

Training Hearings Officers

Another Enforcement goal for 2022 was to train more Commissioners as hearing officers to be available in cases that Enforcement staff are unable to settle. PEC staff put together a Hearing Officer training in the fall of 2022 that continues to be available to Commissioners interested in serving as hearing officers. The training provides an overview of hearing procedures, due process for quasi-judicial boards, scheduling procedures, preliminary hearing requirements, credibility determinations, and an overview of findings of facts, penalties, and final orders.

Enforcement staff anticipate increased need for hearing officers in the short- and medium-term as current investigations are completed. The new training program helps ensure that hearings on matters will not be delayed due to a lack of available hearing officers. The training is also available to the public online from the Commission's website and YouTube Channel.

2022 Enforcement Actions Summary

In the Matter of Jason Overman, Case no. 18-14. The Commission found that Respondent, Jason Overman, a private lobbyist, violated the Oakland Campaign Reform Act's contractor contribution ban by making campaign contributions to City of Oakland elected officials, candidates, or their controlled committees. The Commission approved a financial penalty in the amount of \$2,600.

In the Matter of Justin Berton (Case No. 18-45). The Commission found that the Respondent, Justin Berton, the Director of Communications for Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, violated the Government Ethics Act's misuse of city resources provision by posting four links to newspaper editorials that endorsed the Mayor's re-election in 2018 to the mayor's official Nextdoor public agencies/elected officials' account. The Commission approved a financial penalty in the amount of \$1,000.

In the Matter of Rebecca Kaplan, Case no. 20-40. The Commission found that the Respondent, Rebecca Kaplan, the City Council At-Large member, violated the Government Ethics Act section Form 700 reporting and conflict of interest provisions by failing to disclose her ownership interest in an Oakland condo and voting on matters affecting a park development project next door to her property. The Commission approved a financial penalty in the amount of \$19,000.

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ADMINISTRATION

Staff

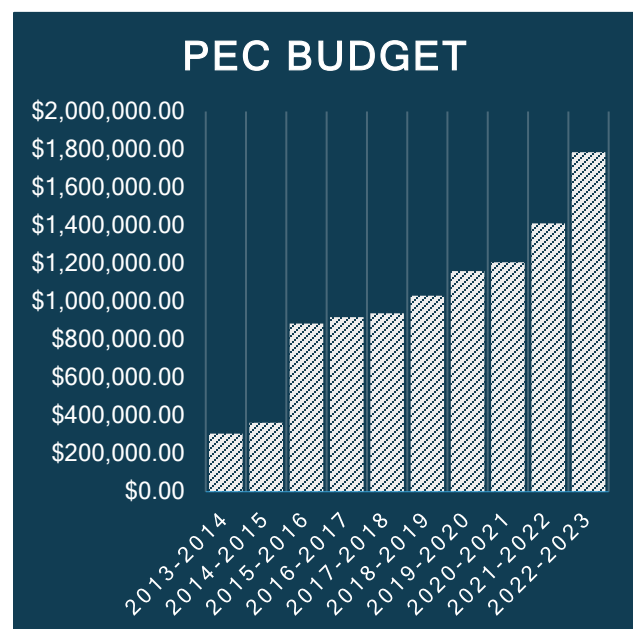
Commission staff are responsible for the Commission's day-to-day operations, including investigations and enforcement casework, education and advice, data collection and illumination activities, and law and policy projects. While most City offices remained closed to the public due to orders in response to the on-going COVID pandemic, Commission staff continued to provide services seamlessly without in-person contact. Staff continue to participate in ongoing professional development, including opportunities through the Council of Government Ethics Laws, International Association for Public Participation, and the City of Oakland covering topics such as reducing bias, inclusive engagement, continuing education in legal subjects, filing officer duties, and advanced data analysis and visualization.

2022 saw major leadership changes as the Commission's Executive Director for the past ten years, Whitney Barazoto, stepped down in June 2022. Enforcement Chief Kellie Johnson was promoted to the Executive Director position in August. However, after Ms. Johnson's resignation in November, the Commission's Lead Analyst Suzanne Doran was appointed Acting Director in the interim. A new recruitment for Executive Director was underway at the end of 2022.

Other significant staff transitions include the promotion of Ethics Investigator Simon Russell to Enforcement Chief and the promotion of Administrative Assistant Ana Lara-Franco to the newly-budgeted Administrative Analyst position, both in November 2022.

Budget

The adopted budget for the Commission was \$1,411,407 for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and \$1,786,115 for Fiscal Year 2022-23. In June 2021, the City Council approved a budget that included the addition of one new position for the PEC to begin in July 2022. The addition provides increased staff capacity for administrative support to the Enforcement Team, including complaint intake, communications, complaint database management, case tracking, agenda and



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hearing preparation for enforcement cases, and other related tasks.

Public Funds for Candidates

The Limited Public Financing (LPF) program provides District City Council candidates with some public funds by way of reimbursements for qualified expenditures to be used for campaign expenses. The goal of the program is to help ensure that all individuals have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the elective and governmental process. The 2022 program began with a training in August and ongoing interaction with candidates in facilitating program requirements and distributing public funds. Five candidates participated and received some or all of the \$35,400 that was available to each candidate, for a total disbursement of \$159,038 for the 2022 election.

Public Meetings

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361 which amended provisions of the Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to continue to meet by teleconference so long as the body adopts certain findings in compliance with the new law. The Commission's public meetings in 2022 continued to be held online and accessible to the public via Zoom to comply with restrictions imposed by the ongoing COVID pandemic. With the lifting of the emergency order by the State of California at the end of February 2023, all public meetings including Board and Commission meetings are required to be held in-person and will resume again per State law.

2022 COMMISSIONERS

Arvon J. Perteet, Chair

Commission Appointee 1/22/2021 - 1/21/2024



Arvon J. Perteet is the Global Legal Response and Fraud Investigations Manager at Square, Inc. Arvon's teams are responsible for conducting investigations related to external fraud against Square and Square's merchants and responding to legal requests, both civil and criminal in nature. Prior to working at Square, Arvon was an Assistant District Attorney in the Independent Investigations Bureau at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office investigating and prosecuting cases involving officer involved shootings, use of excessive force, and in-custody deaths.

Arvon was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California in the Asset Forfeiture Unit for eight years, and he was a Deputy District Attorney in the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office for two years. His legal career also included time at a small insurance defense firm in the Bay Area. Arvon is a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law, and a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Arvon is an Oakland native.

Michael B. MacDonald, Vice Chair

Commission Appointee 1/22/2020 - 5/28/2022



Michael MacDonald is an Assistant City Clerk at the City of Berkeley. In that role, he supervises a variety of functions within the department with a focus on municipal elections, campaign filings, conflict of interest requirements, and regulations for City advisory commissions.

Prior to serving in municipal government, Michael spent three years as a District Representative under two California State Senators serving as lead representative for K-12 education, transportation, housing, and homelessness issue areas by working closely with the Senator, constituents, district organizations, local governments, and state agencies. Before moving to Oakland in 2018, Michael co-founded the Diversity Collective Ventura County Community Resource Center, a non-profit LGBTQ community center that strives to build a community in which LGBTQ people can be healthy, equal, and complete members of the community.

Michael is a CSU graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. He lives in downtown Oakland with his partner.

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Ryan Micik, Vice Chair

Commission Appointee 6/11/2021 - 6/30/2022

City Attorney Appointee 7/1/2022 - 1/21/2024



Ryan Micik operates a political research and communications consulting practice. His clients have included government reform advocacy organizations and other nonprofits, private companies, and candidates for all levels of government office, from school board to president. Among other services, he assists clients with mastering complex issues; navigating local, state, and federal public records laws; and developing messaging and strategy. He formerly served as deputy director of Maryland StateStat, a government performance management and accountability initiative. In that role, he engaged with state agencies to improve service delivery, increase government efficiency and responsiveness, and reduce waste.

Ryan earned a BA in Political Science from UC Berkeley, where he was active in progressive and AAPI organizations and won awards for radio journalism. He is a former member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. He resides in Grand Lake.

Charlotte Hill

Commission Appointee 1/22/2022 - 1/21/2025



Charlotte Hill is a political scientist at UC Berkeley, where she researches the impact of electoral and voting reforms on political participation. She regularly advises organizations focused on improving democracy policy and increasing voter turnout. Before entering academia, Charlotte held senior communications roles for the nonpartisan political reform organization RepresentUs and the international petition platform Change.org. She recently served as the vice president of the San Francisco Elections Commission, where she helped oversee local election administration.

Charlotte grew up in Northern California and has lived in the Bay Area since 2006. She holds a BA, an MPP, and a PhD in Public Policy from UC Berkeley.

Jessica Leavitt

City Attorney Appointee 9/15/2021 - 5/21/2022



Jessica Leavitt is Senior Corporate Counsel with NetScout Systems, Inc., where she focuses on compliance issues. She previously worked at the City of Oakland as both a Deputy City Attorney and as an investigator for the Citizens' Police Review Board. She also worked as a Special Assistant to the Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar of California and served on a number of local and state boards.

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Jessica is a native Oaklander and holds a BA from Claremont McKenna College, a JD from UC Hastings, and a Master's degree in Information Science from the University of Michigan.

Joseph Tuman

Mayoral Appointee 1/22/2020 - 1/21/2023



Joseph Tuman is a full-time university professor at San Francisco State University in First Amendment law, public speaking, critical thinking and argumentation, and debate. He has also taught at St. Mary's College, the New School for Social Research in New York, and Paris II Law School in France.

Joseph received his BA in Political Science from UC Berkeley with Great Distinction and Highest Honors and his JD from Boalt Law. His law work included comprehensive evidence review and sorting of internal documents produced by tobacco companies related to advertising and marketing campaigns targeting children for class-action lawsuits filed by different states. He has served as a political analyst for major television networks and newspapers and is an author and senior editor of numerous books and academic journals.

Joseph was born in Dallas, Texas, and raised in the San Joaquin Valley. He has lived in Oakland since 1984 and ran twice for Mayor of Oakland.

Francis Upton IV

City Auditor Appointee 4/20/2022 - 1/21/2025



Francis Upton IV is a software executive with deep technical experience, particularly in data-related issues and software development productivity. He is currently a founder and the Chief Technology Officer at SnapStrat, Inc.

Previously he was VP of Architecture and Governance at Talend, a leading provider of data integration technology. Before that, he founded Oakland Software where he led the development of advanced data transformation technology which was sold to Talend. Other work has included senior engineering and management positions at various technical startups and at computer manufacturers Digital Equipment Corporation and Hewlett-Packard, where he worked on operating systems, distributed transaction systems, and was a leading contributor to an International Standard. Francis has a long history of significant volunteer contributions to open source projects, notably with the Eclipse Foundation and the Jenkins CI System.

He holds a BA in Liberal Studies from Antioch University and has completed most of the course requirements towards an MS degree in Computer Science at Stanford. Francis was born and raised in Orange County, California, and has been an Oakland resident for over 25 years, currently living in Glenview. He is the proud father of two daughters attending OUSD schools.