

Item 9 - Disclosure Report



Arvon J. Perteet, Chair
Michael B. MacDonald, Vice-Chair
Charlotte Hill
Jessica Leavitt
Ryan Micik
Joe Tuman

Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Whitney Barazoto, Executive Director
DATE: February 25, 2022
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the March 9, 2022, Meeting

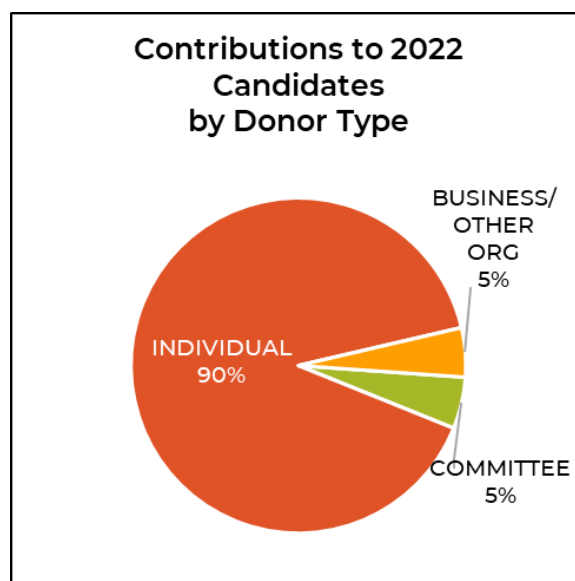
This memorandum provides a summary of major accomplishments in the Public Ethics Commission’s (PEC or Commission) Disclosure and Engagement program activities since the last monthly meeting. Commission staff disclosure activities focus on improving online tools for public access to local campaign finance 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.

Compliance with Disclosure Requirements

Campaign finance disclosure – A general election is scheduled this year, on November 8, 2022. Eight Oakland offices are up for election: Mayor; City Auditor; Councilmembers for Districts 2, 4 and 6; and School Board Directors for Districts 2, 4 and 6. Twenty-one candidates have now declared their intention to run, and 12 have registered campaign committees.

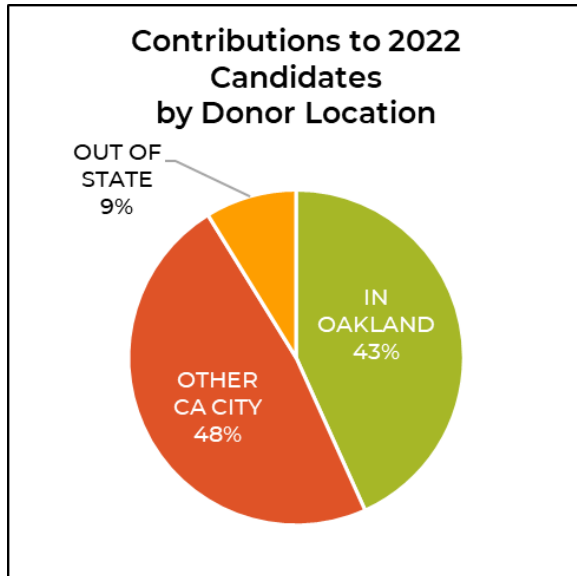
In an election year, there are four major filing deadlines for campaign statements, two semi-annual statements and two pre-election statements. The first 2022 deadline was January 31, and all registered committees must submit semi-annual campaign statements for the period from July 1 through December 31, 2021. Commission staff completed facial review and issued 18 amendment requests. Staff contacted five non-filers to gain compliance, and late fees and enforcement referrals will be issued as necessary.

In 2021, Oakland committees reported over \$1.1 million in contributions¹. Over \$600,000 in



¹ Calculations based on campaign activity data from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 as reported through February 23, 2022. Calculations for 2022 candidates do not include terminated committees. Source: <https://data.oaklandca.gov/>.

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contributions were reported by candidates running for office in 2022. Ninety percent of contributions of \$100 or more to 2022 candidates came from individuals, 5 percent from political committees, and 5 percent from businesses or other organizations. Less than half (43 percent) of contributions of \$100 or more listed a donor with an Oakland address. Of the remaining contributions, 48 percent listed a California address outside of Oakland, and 9 percent listed an out-of-state address.

So far 765 Oakland residents have contributed to 2022 candidates, and contributions of \$250 or less made up half of contributions over \$100. Campaign statements are available to view and download at the PEC's [Public Portal for Campaign Finance Disclosure](#).

Lobbyist disclosure – The Oakland Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) requires any person that qualifies as a lobbyist to register annually with the Public Ethics Commission before conducting any lobbying activity. It also requires lobbyists to submit quarterly reports disclosing their lobbying activities to ensure that the public knows who is trying to influence City decisions.

January 30 was the deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from October 1 through December 31, 2021. Registration renewals were due January 31. All reports are filed, and all 2022 registration renewals received.

Lobbyists reported 289 contacts with Oakland public officials during the fourth quarter, for a total of 1,059 contacts in 2021. Land use decisions accounted for 66 percent of contacts and lobbying on behalf of the Oakland Athletics made up 34 percent of all contacts in 2021.

An up-to-date list of registered lobbyists and lobbyist activity reports with links to view and download individual reports is available at the PEC's [Lobbyist Dashboard and Data](#) webpage.

Clients with Most Lobbying Contacts	
Oakland Athletics	34%
Schnitzer Steel	9%
Earthjustice	6%
The Michaels Organization	5%
Jobs and Housing Coalition	3%
Insight Terminal Solutions	3%
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association	3%
Bridge Association of Realtors	3%
San Francisco Housing Action Coalition	3%
Becker Boards	3%

Advice and Engagement

Advice and Technical Assistance – In February, Commission staff responded to 25 requests for information, advice or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues, for a total of 62 requests in 2022.

Supervisory Academy – On January 27, staff facilitated an ethics discussion for the City's quarterly Supervisory Academy. The discussions are intended to allow for more meaningful dialogue concerning ethical values in decision making with a focus on identifying ethical dilemmas that City staff face in carrying out their daily duties. Staff provided an overview of the Government Ethics Act including

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conflicts of interests, gift restrictions, and postemployment restrictions. A total of 26 employees attended the training.

Form 700 Filer Training – On February 15, PEC staff conducted a live Government Ethics Training for Form 700 Filers via Zoom. The training was hosted by the Department of Human Resources (HR) and served as an alternative for employees that have not completed the PEC’s online training. A total of 16 employees attended the training.

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 16, staff trained 61 new employees on GEA provisions.

Ethics Onboarding and Exit Process – In February, Commission staff worked with the Citywide Training Manager to complete migration of the PEC’s training assets to the City’s new NEOGOV Learn platform. The new platform will allow training assignment, notices to employees, and compliance tracking going forward.

Oakland Campaign Reform Act Guide – Commission staff updated the PEC’s comprehensive guide to the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, designed to assist the regulated community in complying with local law. The guide provides a summary of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act provisions and was updated to reflect 2022 contribution and voluntary spending limits, local disclosure forms, modifications to the filing process introduced in 2020, as well as minor edits covering issues encountered during staff advice calls.

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 publicizing the PEC’s 2022 accomplishments.

