

Item 9 - Disclosure Report



Ryan Micik, Chair
Charlotte Hill, Vice Chair
Alea Gage
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Vincent Steele
Francis Upton IV

Nicolas Heidorn, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Ana Lara Franco, Commission Analyst
Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
DATE: May 31, 2023
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the June 14, 2023, 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.

Filing Officer – Compliance

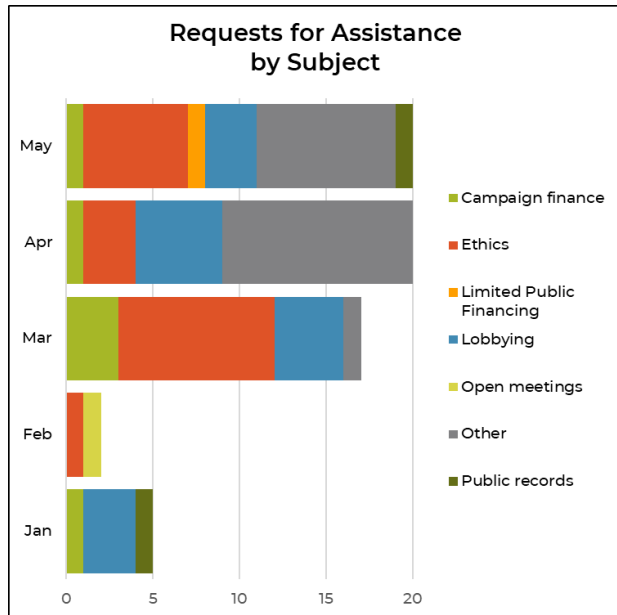
Campaign finance disclosure – A Special Election has been scheduled for November 7, 2023, to fill the OUSD District 5 School Director seat. The Special Election adds two additional pre-election deadlines for candidate's campaign statements. The first pre-election deadline for committees with activity related to the November 7 Special Elections is September 28 and the second pre-election deadline is October 26. 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. April 30 was the deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from January 1 through March 31, 2023. To date, 48 reports have been filed. Commission staff is reaching out to 13 possible non-filers to gain compliance and/or clarify filing status.

The Lobbyist Registration portal, which was taken offline due to the ransomware attack in February, is back online and available for lobbyists to submit filings. 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 month of May, Commission staff responded to 20 requests for information, advice, or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues, for a total of 64 in 2023 to date. Since assuming filing officer duties in 2017, requests for advice and technical assistance typically peak in election years and the weeks prior to disclosure filing deadlines. Commission staff average approximately 32 requests per month in election years and 18 requests per month in non-election years.



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 May 17, Staff trained a total of 33 new employees on GEA provisions.

Ethics Check-In – On May 2, staff met with the office of District 6 Councilmember Kevin Jenkins to provide an overview of recent changes in state and local ethics laws. Staff also provided a link to the PEC’s ethics resource binder that includes guides and fact sheets relating to the Government Ethics Act, conflicts of interests, gift restrictions, non-interference provision, and the City’s ticket distribution policy.

OPRYD Ethics Training – On May 26, Staff conducted an ethics training for 120 new employees of the Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development Department during their summer staff orientation. Staff provided an overview of the PEC and the City’s Government Ethics Act.

Public Records Sunshine Training – On May 31, Staff added a new Sunshine Training on public records to the PEC’s on-demand training suite. The training covers the rules for receiving and responding to public records requests and is now available through the PEC’s [website](#).

Online Engagement

Social Media – Commission staff post social media content to highlight specific PEC policy areas, activities, or client-groups. In May our posts focused on introducing our new Executive Director, June meeting agenda topics, and the Democracy Dollars updates webpage.