

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: Suzanne Doran, Program Manager
Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
DATE: November 29, 2023
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the December 13, 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 – Due to a vacancy in the office of City Auditor, a Special Election is scheduled for March 5, 2024. The nomination period for candidates opened on November 13 and closes on December 8, 2023. Pre-election campaign statements for candidates listed on the March Special Election ballot are due on January 25 and February 22, 2024, respectively. Other recipient committees with fundraising or spending activity connected with the March Special Election must also file.

In addition, committees making independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose candidates on the March ballot in the 90-days leading up to and including election day (12/6/23 – 3/5/24) must file late independent expenditure reports (Form 496) as well as a local supplemental disclosure report enacted by Measure W.

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. October 30 marked the deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from July 1 through September 30, 2023. Currently 70 lobbyists are registered with the City of Oakland. Eighty-two

percent (59) reports were submitted for the third quarter, and staff is contacting the remaining 13 lobbyists to gain compliance. Lobbyist registration and activity reports may be viewed online at the [PEC's Lobbyist Dashboard and Data webpage](#).

Advice and Engagement

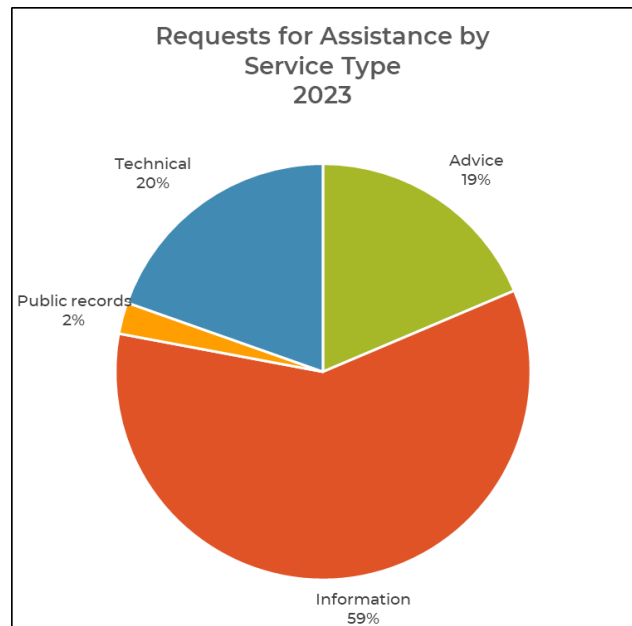
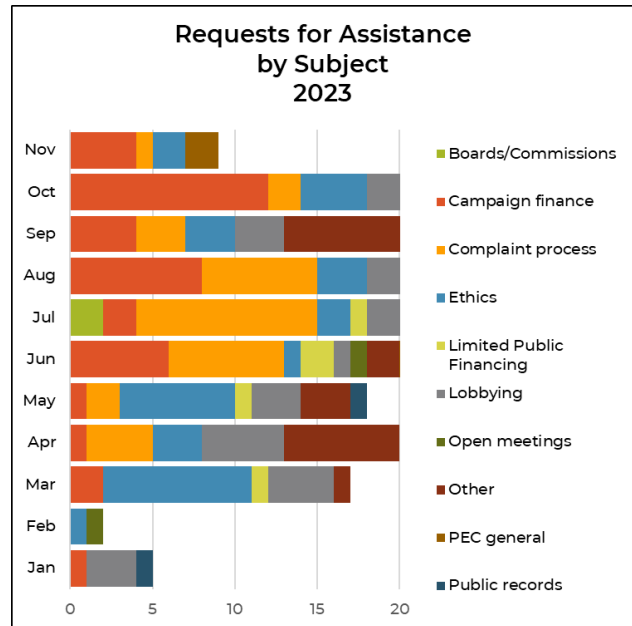
Advice and Technical Assistance – In the month of November, Commission staff responded to nine requests for information, advice, or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues, for a total of 204 in 2023 to date.

Form 700 Diversion Training – As part of our Form 700 compliance efforts, staff developed a diversion training utilizing the FPPC's Form 700 video training. The 12-minute video covers several topics including who files a Form 700, Conflict of Interest Code, filing deadlines, and disclosure requirements. Staff uploaded the FPPC's video recording to the City's learning management platform NEOGOV LEARN and included a post-quiz for course completion. Staff can assign City employees and track training completion via NEOGOV.

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 November 15, Staff trained a total of 30 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.

General Outreach

Commissioner Recruitment – On October 27, the Commission closed the recruitment and application period to fill the upcoming Commissioner-appointed vacancy. Staff implemented a robust recruitment strategy



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that included email blasts to PEC agenda subscribers and community organizations, paid advertisements in both online and printed media outlets, social media posts, and tabling at community events. Staff is pleased to share that this year's recruitment efforts yielded the highest number of submitted applications in the past five years. The tables below provide some insight into our recruitment efforts.

Total Applicants by Year

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
15	10	4	8	17

Applicants by District

District 1	4	23.53%
District 2	3	17.65%
District 3	2	11.76%
District 4	3	17.65%
District 5	1	5.88%
District 7	4	23.53%
Total	17	100.00%

How Did You Hear About This Vacancy?

City of Oakland	1	5.88%
Commission Email subscriber	4	23.53%
Ethics Commissioner/Staff Outreach	2	11.76%
internet	1	5.88%
Newspaper article	3	17.65%
Other: Flyer at City Hall	1	5.88%
Other: North Hills Community Association email	1	5.88%
Other: Oaklandside	1	5.88%
Other: Town Hall Meeting	1	5.88%
Planning Commissioner Vince Sugrue	1	5.88%
Public Ethics Commission website	1	5.88%
Total	17	100.00%

Applicants by Race (provided voluntarily)

Asian	2	18.18%
Black or African American	2	18.18%
Hispanic or Latino	2	18.18%
White or European	1	9.09%
Two or More	4	36.36%
Total	11	100.00%

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Online Engagement

Social Media – Each month Commission staff posts social media content to highlight specific PEC policy areas, activities, or client-groups. November posts focused on the November meeting agenda and the Mayor’s salary survey.