

Item 9 - Disclosure Report



Ryan Micik, Chair
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Nicolas Heidorn, Executive Director

TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Jelani Killings, Ethics Analyst
Ana Lara Franco, Commission Analyst
Suzanne Doran, Lead Analyst
DATE: June 30, 2023
RE: Disclosure and Engagement Monthly Report for the July 12, 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 – July 31 marks the semi-annual campaign finance deadline for activity between January 1 and June 30. All Oakland registered committees must file. All committees received deadline notifications, and staff is reaching out to new candidates to ensure they are prepared to file their reports electronically.

The semi-annual statement covers the first period since new contribution limits took effect January 1, 2023. PEC staff routinely screen campaign statements for contribution limit violations. Campaign filers received an advisory to review their contributions for compliance before the upcoming semi-annual campaign statement deadline, so any necessary refunds could be made and recorded on the campaign statement. Violations are subject to forfeiture of the excess contribution amount and may result in additional enforcement penalties.

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

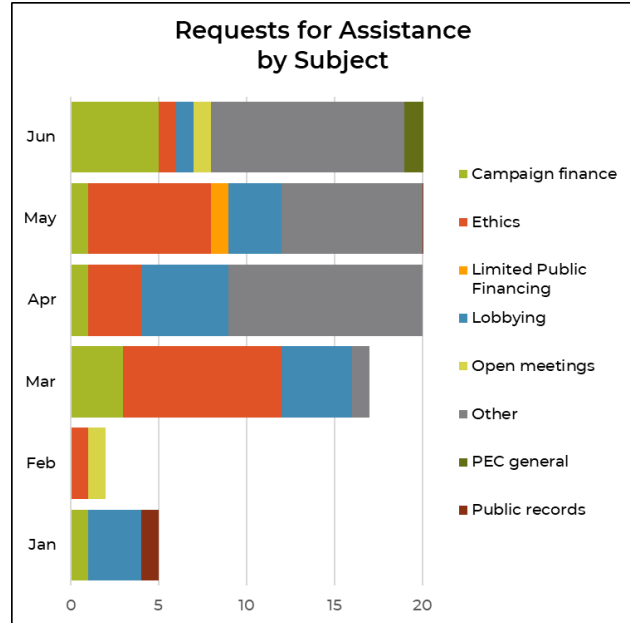
Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Program – The Oakland Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) requires lobbyists to submit quarterly reports disclosing their lobbying activities to ensure that the public knows who is trying to influence City decisions.

July 30 is the upcoming deadline for quarterly lobbyist activity reports covering the period from April 1 through June 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 month of June, Commission staff responded to 22 requests for information, advice, or assistance regarding campaign finance, ethics, Sunshine law, or lobbyist issues, for a total of 87 in 2023 to date.

Candidates and Campaigns – The nomination period for candidates seeking to qualify for the November 2023 Special Election ballot commences on July 17 and ends on August 11. Commission staff provided the Office of the City Clerk with materials to include with the candidate nomination packet including our candidate checklist and information on changes to campaign finance rules resulting from Measure W. As part of campaign education efforts, staff issues regular advisories to ensure that candidates and committees are aware of local rules during this election season. In June, staff issued an advisory reminding candidates of new contribution limits.



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 June 21, Staff trained a total of 39 new employees on GEA provisions.

Online Engagement

Website – In June, staff prioritized updates to content related to campaign rules, so the most up-to-date information is available for candidates running in the November 2023 Special Election. Staff created a “[What’s New](#)” webpage to summarize recent changes to laws and regulations in PEC jurisdiction, and updated “[Starting Your Campaign](#),” “[Contribution Limits](#),” and “[Campaign Communication Rules](#)” webpages to reflect changes effected by Measure W. Social media posts are highlighting these pages. Additionally, a new section to highlight disclosure tools was added to the Commission homepage.

Social Media – Each month Commission staff posts social media content to highlight specific PEC policy areas, activities, or client-groups. June posts focused on June agenda topics and new campaign finance rules.