



Ballot Measure Committees

Congratulations on your decision to take part in the City of Oakland’s 2020 election process. The Public Ethics Commission enforces campaign finance rules and provides training and advice for individuals and groups subject to them. Committees formed to support or oppose a City ballot measure must comply with state and local rules to ensure proper reporting and disclosure of committee activities. This advisory will provide you with an overview of the key rules that you need to be aware of.

What is a ballot measure committee?

Any person or group that receives contributions of \$2,000 or more in a calendar year for the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot measure must register as a ballot measure committee by submitting a Statement of Organization ([Form 410](#)) to the California Secretary of State and the Oakland Public Ethics Commission.

Disclosure of principal officers

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act (OCRA) requires ballot measure committees disclose the principal officers of the committee on their Statement of Organization ([Form 410](#)). The disclosure must include the full name, street address, and telephone number of at least one (1) principal officer, as well as all principal officers up to a total of three (3).

Electronic Filing Requirement

Ballot measure committees are required to file campaign statements disclosing contribution and spending activity according to the FPPC’s [filing deadline schedule](#).

Note: Committees primarily formed to support the qualification, passage or defeat of a measure must file quarterly reports until the pre-election period begins for the election in which the measure will be voted upon. Thereafter, committee filing deadlines follow the pre-election schedule.

24-hour reporting requirement

A ballot measure committee that **receives** or **makes** contributions totaling \$1,000 or more from a single source within the 90 days before the election, including the date of the election, must report the contribution by filing a [Form 497](#) within 24 hours

Advertisement disclaimers

Advertisements must include a disclaimer identifying the committee paying for the ad. Advertisement disclaimers are required even during the ballot qualification period.

The disclaimer must include, unless otherwise noted: “Paid for by [committee’s name] and “Committee major funding from [names of top three donors of \$50,000 or more]” in descending order.

Mandatory Reporting by City Officials and Staff Who Solicit Political Contributions

Any Oakland public servant required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) who successfully solicits a political contribution of \$5,000 or more to any committee from any person or entity that contracts or proposes to contract with the official's department must disclose the solicitation to the Public Ethics Commission within 30 days. To report a solicited contribution, use the online [OCRA Form 303](#).

For additional information on ballot measure committees, see the [FPPC's Campaign Manual for Ballot Measure Committees](#).

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