

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

2021 PEC Commissioner Application

# Item #7b - Hill Application

## Public Ethics Commission Application

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### Contact Information

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Name	Charlotte Hill
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Evening Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]@mail.com

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### Please answer the following questions

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Are you an Oakland resident?	Yes
Years of residency in Oakland	2
Your City Council District	District 1
List any City of Oakland Boards or Commissions (including this Commission) on which you currently or have previously served:	none
Do you attest that you already have or will attend a PEC meeting before your final interview with the Commission?	Yes
If you said yes to the previous question, please let us know what date you attended or will attend.	November 1, 2021
Are you currently employed by the City of Oakland or do you have any direct and substantial financial interest in any work, business, or official action by the City?	No
Are you currently or are you planning to run for elective office in Oakland?	No

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Are you currently or are you planning to endorse, support or oppose an Oakland candidate or ballot measure? No

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Are you currently or are you planning to work on behalf of an Oakland candidate or ballot measure? No

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Are you a registered Oakland lobbyist? No

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Are you required to register as a lobbyist? No

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Do you receive compensation from an Oakland lobbyist? No

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Do you receive gifts from an Oakland lobbyist? No

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List any languages other than English that you speak fluently. none

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How did you hear about this vacancy? PEC email

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### Supplemental Questions

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**1. Why do you want to serve on the Public Ethics Commission?**

I am grateful to have the opportunity to share with you here why I believe I would ably ensure fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in City government.

Throughout my career, I've been drawn to ensuring fairness and ethics in government because I feel that it is central to the proper functioning of our democracy. Put simply, people do not participate in politics when they distrust the political system. I care deeply about building democratic processes that work for the people and want to do my part to ensure honest, inclusive government for Oakland residents.

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**2. What skills and experience will you bring to the Commission? (Include any governmental experience, activities with civic and business organizations, neighborhood groups, or any other experience that would contribute to your effectiveness as a Commissioner.)**

I am a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley, where I study, among other things, how democratic policies and institutions-including campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying reforms-can build public trust in government and lead voters to participate more in the political process. Before moving to Oakland in early 2020, I sat on the San Francisco Elections Commission, where I helped oversee City and County elections.

I have a PhD and a master's degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, as well as a BA in Peace and Conflict Studies (again from UC Berkeley). I am a devoted advocate of a more inclusive, representative, and accountable democracy and am very interested in using my skills and experience to improve Oakland government.

I recently served on the national boards of both Represent.Us and FairVote, national leaders in nonpartisan election reform, and am a regular participant in conversations around democratic reforms such as small-dollar campaign finance systems and expanded registration and voting access. During the 2016 election campaign, I testified in front of the San Francisco Ethics Commission on behalf of a San Francisco ballot initiative regulating lobbying activity; the initiative won with widespread community support. My career and volunteer experience supporting democratic reforms, paired with my familiarity with the political science literature on elections and voting, will help me maintain a critical, constructive eye when considering issues that come before the Public Ethics Commission.

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### 3. What issues, projects, or goals would you like to pursue while serving on the Commission?

I was excited to learn about the Commission's Campaign Finance/Public Financing Subcommittee-in particular, its intention to introduce legislation reforming Oakland's campaign finance regime to expand access to lower-income residents. However, it is unclear whether this subcommittee's work continued past 2018. It is unlikely that the motivating challenge articulated in a PEC newsletter-that there is "a near-total dominance of high-dollar donors and significant disparities in political giving by zip code"-has been sufficiently addressed or resolved in the past three years. I would like to understand the current status of this subcommittee and, if possible, help bring new energy and focus to its work.

More generally, I would like to help identify additional opportunities for increasing public participation in government. Lawmakers are certainly responsive to campaign contributors, but they also are more accountable to voters who regularly participate in elections and attend community meetings and hearings. While it might seem outside the scope of this Commission at first glance, I believe that increasing the public's political participation, broadly defined, is critical to fulfilling the Commission's objectives of ensuring fairness and promoting trust in our local political system.

I also strongly believe that one of the best ways to increase public trust is for government to operate transparently, quickly, and effectively whenever engaging directly with Oakland residents. There is perhaps no clearer example of Oakland's shortcomings on this front than in regards to its public records request backlog. As the PEC found in its own survey of Oakland residents, many locals cannot obtain their personal police records. If appointed to the Commission, I would work to identify places such as this where the City is failing to adequately serve the needs of the community-and then attempt to improve these systems so that Oakland residents feel that local government is responsive to them.

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### 4. What do you think are the City's most pressing ethics, campaign finance, or transparency challenges?

While there are certainly ongoing issues with bribery and corruption that the PEC has been tackling, I continue to think that the skewed nature of public engagement in local government, with wealthy residents dramatically overrepresented as campaign funders and voters, is a more pervasive and insidious problem that deserves increased attention. If appointed to the Commission, I would attempt to balance the narrow-albeit critically important-work of addressing specific instances of "hard" corruption with the broader work of re-envisioning how the public can engage with the City. My goal would always be to ensure that government reflects the priorities and preferences of all residents.

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5. What else would you like the subcommittee to know as your application is considered?

I believe Oakland can build public trust through continued community engagement, prompt and fair resolution of complaints and disputes, and proactive efforts to expand political access for groups historically left out of the political process. If I am selected to be a commissioner, I will work to further these goals. And I will participate diligently in all meetings and dedicate myself to making sure Oakland residents can feel confident in our political process.

Please provide two references

### Reference 1

Name	Pedro Hernandez
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED] ail.com

### Reference 2

Name	Ann Ravel
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED] ail.com

### Submit your resume

Upload your resume	[REDACTED]
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### Sign and submit application

Signature	[REDACTED]
Date/Time	Oct 01, 2021

**Charlotte Hill**



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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

PhD Public Policy, July 2021

MPP Public Policy, May 2017

BA Peace and Conflict Studies, May 2009

SELECTED ADVOCACY and PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES

Board Member FairVote, 2017-2021

Board Member RepresentUs, 2014-2015, 2017-2021

Commissioner/V.P. San Francisco Elections Commission, 2018-2020  
Oversaw City and County elections. Developed and managed a special project focused on increasing public participation in San Francisco elections. Helped develop and implement an improved process for holding accountable the director of the Department of Elections.

Senior Advisor Vote From Home 2020, 2020  
Managed communications and research efforts to boost take-up of vote-by-mail policies among low-propensity voters, especially young adults and people of color.

Sr. Communications Director RepresentUs, 2016  
Managed national communications for two statewide anti-corruption ballot initiatives (Washington and South Dakota). Supported a successful effort to pass San Francisco's lobbyist gift ban.

Sr. Communications Manager Change.org, 2011-2014

Board Member New Leaders Council San Francisco, 2012-2013

PUBLICATIONS

[All-Mail Voting in Colorado Increases Turnout and Reduces Turnout Inequality](#) (with Adam Bonica, Jake M. Grumbach, and Hakeem Jefferson). 2021. *Electoral Studies*.

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[Rock the Registration: Same-Day Registration Increases Turnout of Young Voters](#) (with Jake M. Grumbach). Forthcoming. *Journal of Politics*

Democratizing the Presidential Debates (with Ann Ravel). 2020. In [The Best Candidate: Presidential Nomination in Polarized Times](#), ed. Eugene D. Mazo, Cambridge University Press.

[The Registration and Turnout Effects of Automatic Voter Registration \(with Eric McGhee and Mindy Romero\)](#).

[Can Youth Voter Suppression Induce Backlash? Pilot Study Results](#).

[Vote From Home 2020 Survey Results: Perceptions of Vote By Mail](#).

[Young People Face Higher Voting Costs and Are Less Informed About State Voting Laws](#).

Age Group Identity and Political Participation (with Sam Trachtman and Sarah Anzia).

### SELECT OP-EDS

[Democrats can't count on voters being made enough about suppression to overcome it](#). 2021. *Washington Post*

[America votes by 50 sets of rules. We need a Federal Elections Agency](#) (with Lee Drutman). 2020. *New York Times*

[We should never have to vote in person again](#) (with Adam Bonica, Jake M. Grumbach, and Hakeem Jefferson). 2020. *New York Times*

[An excitingly simple solution to youth turnout, for the primaries and beyond \(op-ed\)](#) (with Jake M. Grumbach). 2019. *New York Times*

[The real reason the NRA's money matters in elections](#). 2018. *Vox*

### ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley

Co-principal investigator on civic education experiment project with Prof. Amy Lerman, 2020-present. Project involves teaching high school students about voter pre-registration and measuring the impact on their civic attitudes and behaviors.

Graduate student researcher for campaign finance project with Prof. Sarah Anzia, 2018. Project involved studying how local interest groups donate to city council candidates in select US cities.

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Graduate student researcher for trust in government project with Prof. Amy Lerman, 2016-2017. Project involved researching the history of public trust in federal government.

Graduate student researcher for constitutional law project with Prof. Bertrall Ross, 2015. Project involved examining how poor Americans might be considered a protected class.

Student assistant for civic engagement course development project with Prof. Nora Silver, 2015. Project involved developing a new course for UC Berkeley graduate students on the drivers of successful social movements in the US and abroad.

### GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, and FELLOWSHIPS

University of California, Berkeley

Goldman School of Public Policy Departmental Fellowship, 2018-2020

Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship, 2020

Goldman School of Public Policy Graduate Fellowship, 2014-2015

Jacob K. Javits Political Leadership Scholarship, 2014-2015

Mildred Jordan Sharp Scholarship, 2008

Alumni Association Leadership Award, 2007