

# OVERVIEW

The Public Ethics Commission was created in 1996 with the goal of ensuring "fairness, openness, honesty and integrity" in City government.

The Commission administers compliance programs, educates citizens and City staff on ethics-related issues, and works with City staff to ensure policies are in place and are being followed. The Commission also conducts investigations, audits and public hearings, issue subpoenas, and imposes fines and penalties to assist with its compliance responsibilities.

The Commission is a resource for City staff, public officials, candidates for local elective office, lobbyists, contractors doing business with Oakland, City residents, businesses and other organizations. If you need advice on how to comply with the law, contact the Commission by phone or email.

If you believe there has been a violation of Oakland's campaign finance, ethics, or transparency laws, you may file a complaint by phone, email, or online at [www.oaklandca.gov/pec](http://www.oaklandca.gov/pec).

# STAY CONNECTED

Help shape accountable government.

Here are some ways to get involved and stay connected with us:

Follow us on social media

 @OakGovEthics

and  @OaklandEthics

Subscribe to our newsletter and meeting agenda email list to receive updates on our work and information on ethics-related issues.

Visit our website frequently to learn about issues and events as well as how to become a Commissioner or volunteer with the Commission.



## CITY OF OAKLAND PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION

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[www.oaklandca.gov/pec](http://www.oaklandca.gov/pec)

Business Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# CITY OF OAKLAND PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION



# PEC LAWS

## GOVERNMENT ETHICS ACT

Provides a comprehensive framework of ethics and conflict of interest rules for public servants.

## OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT

Encourages limits on campaign spending and seeks to reduce the influence of large contributions on election outcomes.

## OAKLAND FAIR ELECTIONS ACT

Provides \$100 in Democracy Dollar vouchers to eligible Oakland residents to build fair elections in Oakland and expand participation in the democratic process .

## OAKLAND SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Promotes access to government documents and timely notice of public meetings.

## LOBBYIST REGISTRATION ACT

Requires registration and activity disclosure for individuals and groups that influence public decisions by lobbying City public servants.

# AN INDEPENDENT BOARD

**The Public Ethics Commission was created by City Charter, amended in November 2014, as an independent, non-partisan City board to oversee compliance with the City's campaign finance, transparency, and ethics laws.**

**The Commission is a seven-member board of volunteer Oakland residents. Three members are appointed respectively by the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Auditor, subject to veto by the City Council. Four members are recruited and selected by the Commission itself.**

**The Commission's daily operations are conducted by staff at the direction of the Commission.**

# HELP SHAPE ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

**Join us! The Public Ethics Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month. Visit our website for details.**

# A HOLISTIC APPROACH

To fulfill its mission, the Commission conducts the following activities:

**Lead/Collaborate** - Lead by example and facilitate city policy, management, and technological changes to further the Commission's mission.

**Educate/Engage** - Provide education, advice, technical assistance, and formal legal opinions to promote awareness and understanding of the city's campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws.

**Disclose/Illuminate** - Facilitate accurate, effective, and accessible disclosure of government integrity data, such as campaign finance reporting, conflicts of interest/gifts reports, and lobbyist activities, all of which help the public and PEC staff monitor filings, view information, and detect inconsistencies or noncompliance.

**Detect/Deter** - Conduct investigations and audits to monitor compliance with the laws within the Commission's jurisdiction.

**Prosecute** - Enforce violations of the laws within the Commission's jurisdiction through administrative or civil remedies.