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August 14, 2012

Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz,
Garrett, Montgomery, and Rotunda
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Agenda Item #27: Adoption of Amendment to Campaign Form Instructions–Support

Dear Chair Ravel and Commissioners:

On behalf of California Common Cause and our 400,000 national members, please accept this letter urging the Commission to adopt the proposed amendments to campaign forms 401, 410, 450, 460, 465, and 470.

The proposed amendments to the campaign forms' instructions detail that most state committees no longer need to file with local officers, and can instead file just with the state officers. This change was proposed at the behest of the staff, and would update these campaign forms to reflect changes in the Political Reform Act and current FPPC regulations. California Common Cause supports this proposed change.

We would also strongly suggest that the Fair Political Practices Commission further review these forms after the Governor and the Legislature have concluded their legislative business. This would be in order to check that these forms are in sync with any new legislation that passes at the end of the session. For example, California Common Cause is sponsoring SB 1001, a bill that would add a \$50 fee to registered political committees that receive more in contributions than \$1,000 or have expenditures greater than \$1,000. It would be necessary to add mention of this fee in the campaign forms regarding political committees.

We also would like to invite the Fair Political Practices Commission to work with Common Cause to reduce state costs by switching from paper filing to electronic filing. This cost-effective measure would reduce the burdens on local officials, help reduce the amount of paper used across the state, and reduce over public costs. The transitioning away from paper filings to electronic filings will make complying with the Act more efficient and less costly.

For these reasons, we urge the Commission to accept the proposed changes. Please contact me at (916) 520-4070 or pung@commoncause.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phillip Ung
Policy Advocate