

Fair Political Practices Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Schnur, Commissioners Garrett, Hodson, Montgomery, and Rotunda

From: Charles H. Bell, Jr. and Robert Stern, Task Force Co-Chairs

Subject: Chairman's Advisory Task Force on the Political Reform Act – Proposals

Date: January 19, 2010

Fair Political Practices Commission Chairman Dan Schnur gathered a group of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds to study the Political Reform Act and make recommendations to the full Commission. The Task Force was comprised of representatives from Commission staff, reform proponents, private industry, and public entities.

The Task Force made several recommendations that are focused on upholding the intent of the Act. We offer four general topics, broken down into particular action items, for the Commission's review and consideration.

First, the Task Force makes recommendations regarding electronic filing and encouraging state and local consistency. Statewide electronic filing will not only simplify the process for filers, but will also make information readily available to the public. The majority of the recommendations focus on a much needed simplification of the process to make it easier for all parties involved. Additionally, the Task Force addressed increasing disclosure and transparency, also with an eye toward simplification. Finally, the Task Force addressed one of the most important aspects of the Act's intent: raising public confidence in its public officials.

Overall, the Task Force aimed to make the rules in this area manageable for those interested parties to navigate. We look forward to presenting the attached recommendations of the Chairman's Advisory Task Force to the Commission at its January 28, 2011 hearing and to the Legislature, for their consideration.