

TITLE 2. FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fair Political Practices Commission (the Commission), under the authority vested in it under the Political Reform Act (the Act)¹ by Section 83112 of the Government Code, proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations in Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations. The Commission will consider the proposed regulation at a public hearing on or after **April 10, 2025**, at the offices of the Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California, commencing at approximately **10:00 a.m.** Written comments should be received at the Commission offices no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **April 8, 2025**.

BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW:

The Act requires elected officers and public officials, include state and local government employees who make or participate in making governmental decisions, (collectively "officials") to file SEIs disclosing relevant financial interests. (Section 87200 and 87300.) SEIs are filed annually, as well as when assuming and leaving office, and promote transparency in government by providing necessary information to the public about an official's financial interests to ensure that officials are making decisions in the best interest of the public and not personally benefiting from the decisions.²

For many SEI filers, the positions required to file SEIs are determined by the agency's Conflict of Interest Code, which identifies which positions must file and what level of information an official must provide based on the official's job duties. (Section 87300.) These positions typically file the SEI with their agency, but some file with the FPPC.

Certain higher-level state and local officials are required by statute to file SEIs disclosing all of their financial interests, as that term is defined in the Act. These positions are listed in Section 87200. These officials file their SEIs with the FPPC.

Once an SEI is filed with the FPPC, the FPPC must make it available to the public. Currently, under Regulation 18313.5 the FPPC posts SEIs filed by elected officials only. SEIs for other officials who file with the FPPC can be obtained by submitting an email request to the FPPC. The FPPC's SEI filing system is capable of making all statements filed on the system available online. In making SEIs available online, the FPPC currently redacts the address, telephone number, and signature block of the elected official. (Regulation 18313.5.) Regulation 18313.6 currently

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

² See Section 81002(c) identifying purposes of the Act and states, "Assets and income of public officials which may be materially affected by their official actions should be disclosed and in appropriate circumstances the officials should be disqualified from acting in order that conflicts of interest may be avoided."

provides criteria for discretionary redaction where the elected officer has a reasonable privacy concern related to an individual's address, or a family member's name or other personally identifiable information.

AB 1170 was signed into law by the Governor in September 2024 and went into effect on January 1, 2025. Under AB 1170, Section 87500(a) now requires "A statement of economic interest filed by a public official, for whom the Commission is the filing officer, shall be filed with the Commission using the Commission's electronic filing system." As such, rather than require that Section 87200 filers file with their agency and the agency provide the original to the FPPC, filers now must file directly with the FPPC using the FPPC's electronic filing system. Additionally, the Legislature amended Section 87500.3 which requires redaction of the signature, telephone number, email address, and mailing address of the filer when posting SEIs on the internet. Section 87500.3 also lists when the FPPC may use its discretion to redact identifying information surrounding the filer's personal residence and the filer's family's personal information where there is a reasonable privacy concern. Previously, the section stated that the FPPC could adopt its own rules for redaction.

REGULATORY ACTION:

Amend 2 Cal. Code Regs. Sections 18115.2, 18313.5, 18313.6, 18724, 18730, 18754, and 18756 Repeal 2 Cal. Code Regs. Section 18753

SCOPE: Given the amendments to the Act pursuant to AB 1170 Commission staff is proposing the amendment and repeal of various regulations in order to interpret, implement, and make specific the new changes to the Act. The scope of the regulatory proposal may include any and all regulations necessary or relevant to the application of AB 1170. Specific proposals the Commission may review and discuss, include but are not limited to the following:

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18115.2

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to fix citations to Section 87500 and to remove requirements of forwarding SEIs to the FPPC where it will no longer be necessary.

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18313.5

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to encompass all material necessary to be redacted in online postings of SEIs as required now in Section 87500.3. Proposed language may also provide options for the Commission to determine which SEI's will be posted to the Commission's website.

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18313.6

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to remove a section made redundant by Section 87500.3 and update citations under changes to Section 87500.

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18724

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to clarify that filings by retired judges must be filed through the FPPC's electronic filing system.

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18730

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to reflect updates to where officials must file their SEIs under the newly amended Section 87500.

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18754

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to update citations to Section 87500 and to clarify those officials required to file through the FPPC's electronic filing system.

Amend 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18756

Commission staff proposes amending this Regulation to remove data exchange requirements that are no longer necessary as officials will be filing directly through the FPPC's electronic filing system.

Repeal 2. Cal. Code Regs. 18753

Commission staff proposes repealing this Regulation as it has been made redundant by new amendments to Section 87500(a)(1) which now clarifies that the positions previously addressed by this Regulation must file directly with the FPPC using the FPPC's online filing system.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Fiscal Impact on Local Government.	None.
Fiscal Impact on State Government.	None.
Fiscal Impact on Federal Funding of State Programs.	None.

AUTHORITY: Section 83112 provides that the Fair Political Practices Commission may adopt, amend, and rescind rules and regulations to carry out the purposes and provisions of the Act.

REFERENCE: Government Code sections 87500, 87500.3

CONTACT: Any inquiries should be made to Valerie Nuding, Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q St., Suite 3050, Sacramento, CA 95811; email: vnuding@fppc.ca.gov; telephone (279)237-5964. Proposed regulatory language can be accessed at http://www.fppc.ca.gov/the-law/fppc-regulations-and-notices.html.