



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES  
COMMISSION

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## Political Reform Act Revision Project

The Political Reform Act is the cornerstone body of law that governs political activity in California: campaign finance, lobbying, and governmental ethics. First adopted by voters in 1974 as Proposition 9, the Act has been amended several times through voter initiative and dozens of times by the Legislature. The result is a body of law that can be hard to understand, overly complex, and inconsistent.

The goals of the Project require balancing the Commission's mandate to provide strict enforcement while promoting accessibility to the public and transparency to the political system. There are four key elements that will drive the revision of the Act and provide significant improvements:

- Redraft the Act with "plain English" using the simplest, most straightforward language to express ideas and minimize legalese.
- Incorporate key provisions from regulations into the Act.
- Reorganize the Act in order to have all related provisions in the same chapter with self-explanatory titles for each chapter and section.
- Repeal and amend current statutes that are inaccurate or inoperative as a result of judicial decisions and other changes in law.

The Commission has partnered with the University of California Berkeley School of law, University of California Davis School of Law and California Forward (CA Fwd) to conduct a comprehensive review and revision of the Act to ensure decades of amendments are given clarity and continuity. CA Fwd is facilitating review and comments by the public, the regulated community, advocacy groups, the Legislature and local ethics commissions. California Forward is supported by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation.

These essential partnerships aim to attract and encourage participation from academic experts, practitioners, other stakeholder groups, and the interested public to both inform the identification of issues and the development of solutions. Additionally, this project must promote transparency, inclusiveness, and efficient processes that will build public, stakeholder, and legislative support for the proposed revisions to the law.

Please visit <http://www.cafwd.org/pr> for additional information or to sign up for updates about the project. The public may provide public comment on the draft revisions by visiting <http://www.cafwd.org/pracomment> or email [pracomment@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:pracomment@fppc.ca.gov). Your participation and feedback is essential to the success of a revised and improved Political Reform Act.