

# HELP SHAPE ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

Created with the goal of ensuring "**fairness, openness, honesty and integrity**" in city government and to promote a more **inclusive, representative, and accountable** democracy in Oakland", the Public Ethics Commission acts as a guiding light and a watchdog to safeguard compliance with government ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, and transparency laws. **The Commission:**

- Educates residents and City staff on ethics-related issues
- Conducts investigations, audits and public hearings
- Imposes fines and penalties as part of enforcement activities
- Provides policy direction to Commission staff

**If you need advice on how to comply with the law, file a complaint, or report a violation** contact the Commission by phone, email, or online at [www.oaklandca.gov/pec](http://www.oaklandca.gov/pec).

## JOIN US!

The Public Ethics Commission meets regularly every other month.

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



PUBLIC ETHICS COMMISSION  
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# JURISDICTION

## 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.

## LIMITED PUBLIC FINANCING ACT/OAKLAND FAIR ELECTIONS ACT

Provides public funding to City candidates to promote a fair and equal opportunity to participate in elective and governmental processes.

## 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 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.**

# PROGRAM AREAS

To fulfill its mission, the Public Ethics Commission **Staff** conducts the following activities:

**Lead & Collaborate** - Lead by example and advocate for city policies and practices that further the Commission's mission.

**Educate & Engage** - Provide education, guidance, and technical assistance to help people understand and follow the city's campaign finance, ethics, and transparency laws.

**Disclose & Illuminate** - Ensure accurate and easy access to government integrity data, like campaign statements, so the public and staff can review filings and spot noncompliance.

**Detect & Deter** - Investigate and audit to ensure compliance with laws under the Commission's authority.

**Prosecute** - Enforce laws under the Commission's authority using administrative or civil actions.