

Ethics Commission



Application Period Open:

Monday-August 14, 2017 until Friday-September 15, 2017

Apply at:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Clerk/Legislative-Bodies/Boards-and-Commissions>

Contact:

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Office of the City Clerk

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Overview

The charge of the City of Sacramento Ethics Commission (Commission) is to review and consider complaints against elected and appointed City officials to ensure those City officials are conforming their conduct to the City's laws and policies. A complaint filed with the Commission may be investigated only if the complaint identifies the specific alleged violation which forms the basis for the complaint and contains sufficient facts to warrant a formal investigation.

The authority of the Commission extends only to city elected officials, candidates for City elected office, independent expenditure committees, members of boards and commissions, the City Manager, the City Clerk, the City Attorney, the City Treasurer, the City Auditor, the Independent Budget Analyst, and the Public Safety Accountability Officer.

The Commission consists of five members. Members of the Commission shall be nominated by the Personnel and Public Employees Committee and appointed by the Mayor with the concurrence of a majority of the City Council.

Members Terms of Office

Terms shall be staggered for the Initial appointees to the Commission. Seats designated A, C, and E shall expire two years from the date of their initial appointment, with the remaining two seats (B and D) having a term expiring four years from the date of initial appointment. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed to serve four-year terms.

A member shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed.





Qualifications for Ethics Commission Members

1. Commission members shall be residents of the city. Three members shall have a background in law, ethics, local government, or similar experience.
2. The following persons are not eligible to be a commissioner:
 - a. A person who – or whose spouse, registered domestic partner, or child – has contributed to a candidate for city elective office, in a single city election cycle in either of the *last two City election cycles preceding their date of application* to be on the Commission, more than 50 percent of the allowable amount for a Councilmember candidate.
 - b. A person who – or whose spouse, registered domestic partner, or child – is or has been, *within the two years immediately preceding their date of application* to be on the Commission, any of the following:
 - (i) A paid employee of the City;
 - (ii) A registered city lobbyist, or someone who was required to be a registered City lobbyist; or
 - (iii) An appointee of any local or state elected official.
 - c. A person who – or whose spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, or child – has been, *within four years immediately preceding their date of application* to be on the commission, any of the following:
 - (i) Elected to, or a candidate for, City elective office;
 - (ii) An employee of, or paid consultant or contractor to, a campaign for City elective office; or
 - (iii) A paid employee of, a consultant to, or someone under contract with any City elected official.
3. A commissioner shall be ineligible, during service on the Commission and for a *period of four years thereafter*, to hold City elective office. A commissioner shall be ineligible, during services on the commission and for a period of one year thereafter, to be appointed to another City commission, to serve as paid staff for or as a paid consultant to any City elected official, to receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City, or to register as a City lobbyist.
4. While on the Commission, a commissioner shall not contribute to or participate in any candidate campaign for City elective office.

Powers and Duties of the Ethics Commission

The Commission's power and duties include the review, investigation, and consideration of complaints alleging violations of:

- Section 35 of the Sacramento City Charter ("Limitation on future employment");
- Chapter 1.20 ("Code of Fair Campaign Practices");
- Chapter 2.15 ("Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Code");
- Chapter 2.16 ("Conflict of Interest");
- Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")
- Chapter 4.08 ("Sunshine Ordinance"); and
- Chapter 3 ("Conduct of Members") and Rule 6.E ("Closed Sessions") of the Council Rules of Procedure.

Additionally, the commission will:

- Establish for itself a regular meeting schedule, with a minimum of two meetings per year. The meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code section 54950 et seq.). The commission has the authority to notice and hold special meetings in the manner specified by the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- At least annually, report to the City Council regarding the activities of the Commission, with recommendations, if any, regarding the subjects of its purview.
- Every two years, review any contract the city has with the Fair Political Practices Commission, for the purpose of reporting to the Council on the contract's efficacy. The commission may also make recommendations regarding renewal of the contract.
- Provide annual input to the City Attorney on the list of law firms used by the City Attorney to conduct investigations of sexual harassment claims against City officials.
- Provide input on the initial selection of an evaluator under subsection C.4; make recommendations for subsequent contracts with an evaluator; and make recommendations regarding the retention or replacement of an evaluator.
- Act as the screening panel for selection of Independent Redistricting Commission candidates, as provided in article XII of the Sacramento City Charter.

Please see [Chapter 2.112 of the Sacramento City Code](#) for detailed information regarding the Ethics Commission.

