

City of Sacramento
Ethics Commission Report
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
www.cityofsacramento.org

File ID: 2026-00683

3/23/2026

Sacramento Ethics Commissioner Community Outreach Program Strategies

File ID: 2026-00683

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and provide feedback.

Contact: Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk, (916) 808-5442, mcuppy@cityofsacramento.org, Office of the City Clerk

Presenter: Annette Emery, Commissioner, Sacramento Ethics Commission

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Sacramento Ethics Commission Community Meeting PowerPoint
- 3-Sacramento Ethics Commission Informational Brochure
- 4-Sacramento Ethics Commission Postcard

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The purpose of the Sacramento Ethics Commission is to review and consider complaints against elected and appointed city officials, as further described in section 2.112.030, to ensure those city officials are conforming their conduct to the city's laws and policies.

The commission has the power and duty to review, investigate, and consider complaints alleging violations of:

- Section 35 of the Sacramento City Charter ("Limitation on future employment");
- Chapter 1.20 ("Fair Campaign Practices");
- Chapter 2.13 ("Campaign Contribution Limitations") and chapter 2.14 ("Campaign Spending Limits and Public Campaign Financing"), if the city has not contracted with the Fair Political Practices Commission for enforcement of those chapters;
- Chapter 2.15 ("Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Code");
- Chapter 2.16 ("Conflict of Interest");
- Chapter 4.02 ("Code of Ethics")

- Chapter 4.04 (“Transparent Government and Public Engagement”); and
- Chapter 3 (“Conduct of Members”) and Rule 6.E (“Closed Sessions”) of the Council Rules of Procedure.

The commission had a goal of expanding community engagement and outreach in their 2022 annual report. The commission created a PowerPoint presentation to be given to community groups, a 3-fold brochure, and postcard that share commissions scope.

Fulfilling a goal in their 2025 Workplan, commissioners made presentations regarding the scope and activities of the Sacramento Ethics Commission to the following organizations:

- City of Sacramento NDAT (Neighborhood Development Action Team) Community Ambassadors Program - Commissioner Emery
- Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association - Commissioner Emery
- Marshall-New Era Neighborhood Association - Vice Chair LoFaso
- Meadowview Neighborhood Association - Commissioner Emery
- Natomas Community Association - Commissioner Emery
- North Laguna Creek Valley Hi Community Association - Vice Chair LoFaso
- Oak Park Neighborhood Association - Commissioner Velasquez
- South Natomas Improvement Association - Commissioner Emery
- Tahoe Park Association - Vice Chair LoFaso

This report is for the commission to discuss next steps in commissioner community outreach program strategies.

Policy Considerations: Chapter 2.112 of the Sacramento City Code established the Sacramento Ethics Commission and specifies the Commission’s powers and duties.

Economic Impacts: Not applicable.

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable.

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: At its February 23, 2026 meeting, the commission asked for a future agenda item to discuss this topic.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.



Sacramento Ethics Commission

Rev. 08-23-2024

Purpose of the Commission

The commission was established for the purpose of reviewing and considering complaints against elected and appointed city officials and to ensure those city officials are conforming their conduct to the city's laws and policies.

Powers and Duties

The commission has the power and duty to review, investigate, and consider complaints alleging violations of:

- The City Charter prohibition regarding employment of the mayor or a councilmember within one year after their term of office.
- The City's Fair Campaign Practices.
- The City's campaign contribution and spending limitations for city elections.
- The City's lobbyist registration and reporting requirements.
- The City's Conflict of Interest code.
- The City's Code of Ethics.
- The City's Transparent Government and Public Engagement code.
- The City Council Rules of Procedure regarding member conduct and closed sessions.

Powers and Duties, continued

The commission can enforce administrative penalties for violations.

The commission acts as the screening panel for selection of independent redistricting commission candidates, as provided in article XII of the Sacramento City Charter.

The commission's authority 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 director of the office of public safety accountability, and lobbyists.

How to File a Complaint

Any person may file a complaint alleging violations of Ethics Law.

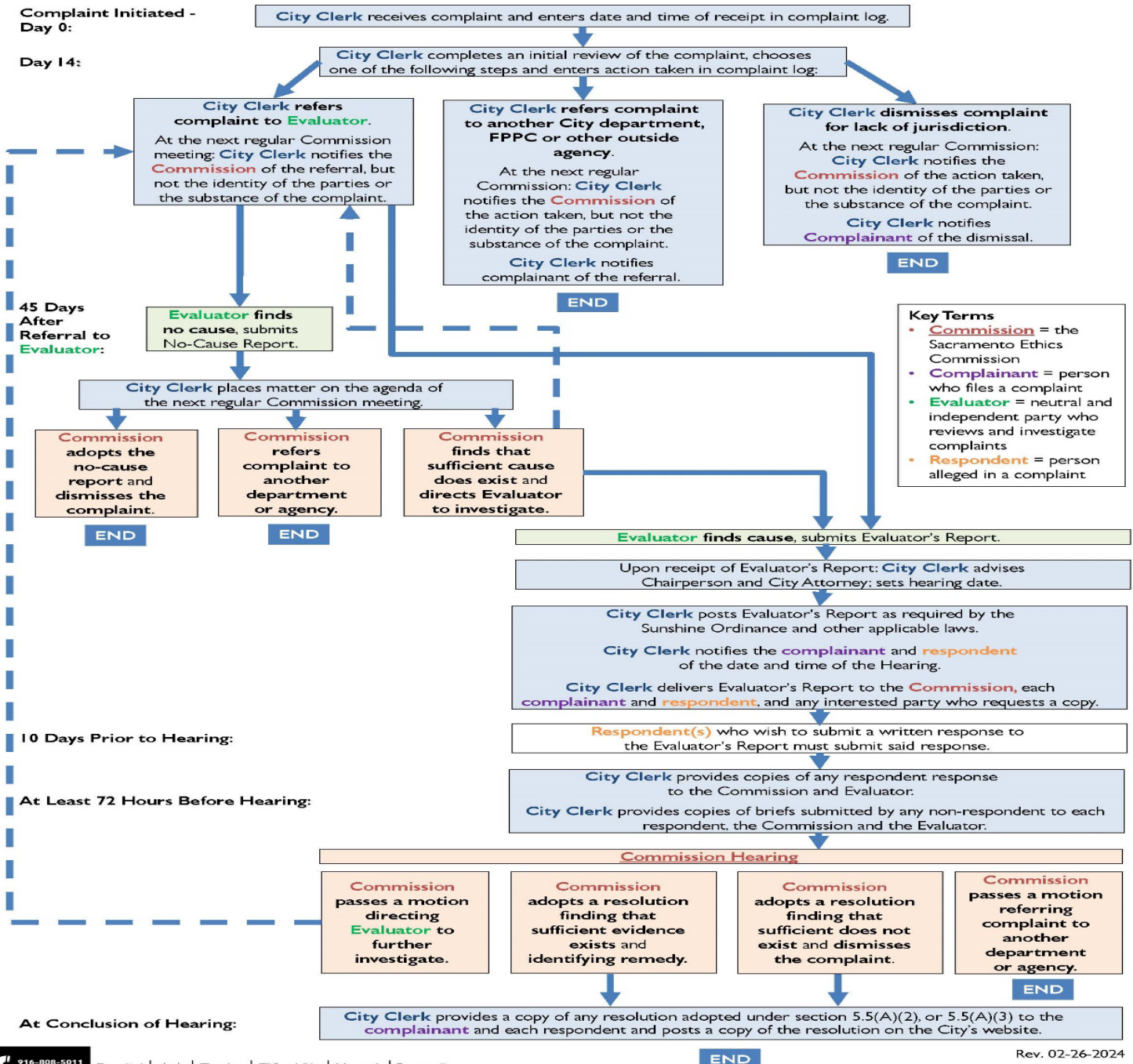
- Online on the City's Website (see QR code)
- Email to ethics@cityofsacramento.org
- Mail to City Hall
- Via phone to (916) 808-7200



Timeline

- Within 14 days the City Clerk shall complete an initial review and dismisses or refer complaint (to Evaluator or another city department).
- Within 30 days of receipt the Independent Evaluator determines if sufficient cause exists to conduct a full investigation:
 - Within 45 days – no-cause report OR
 - Within 60 days – Independent Evaluator's Report.
- Hearing before Commission at next meeting.

Complaint Flow Chart



Section 35 of the Sacramento City Charter – Limitation on Future Employment

No member of the council during the term for which such person shall have been elected or appointed or for one year after such person ceases to hold office, shall be eligible for any appointive office or position in the city, carrying compensation, and created by this Charter, by ordinance or by resolution. An elective office which has been filled by appointment by reason of a vacancy in that office shall not be considered an appointive office under this section.

Chapter 1.20 – Code of Fair Campaign Practices

The Code of Fair Campaign Practices states that there are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fairness which every candidate for public office in the city of Sacramento has an ethical obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested, but fairly conducted campaigns, the integrity of the electoral process has been preserved.

This only applies if all candidates for election to that public office sign the code.

Code of Fair Campaign Practices, continued

Candidates who sign the Code of Fair Campaign Practices make these nine pledges:

1. To campaign openly and publicly, presenting a candidate's record and policies with frankness, and only making merit-based criticisms of an opponent's record or policies.
2. Not to use personal or defamatory attacks against a candidate or their family members
3. Not to appeal to prejudices based on race, sex, religion, national origin, physical health, status, or age.
4. Not to undermine the American system of free elections or prevent individuals voting rights.
5. To notify opponents at least eight days in advance of campaign messages that name the opponent.
6. Not to coerce employees to make campaign contributions.
7. To publicly repudiate any personal, defamatory, or prejudicial about the campaign from other individuals or groups.
8. To defend every eligible voter's right to full and equal participation.
9. To clearly identify my campaign on any election materials.

Chapter 2.13 - Campaign Contribution Limitations

Chapter 2.14 - Campaign Spending Limits and Public Campaign Financing

Campaign Finance Disclosures & Filings

California state law requires the filing of campaign disclosure statements by local candidates for elective office, elected officeholders, and committees supporting or opposing local candidates or ballot measures.

City of Sacramento Campaign Finance Disclosure filings can be found here:

<https://public.netfile.com/pub2/?aid=SAC>

Chapter 2.15 - Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Code

The purpose of this chapter is to maintain a fair and open decision-making process in city government and to ensure that the public and city officials have full knowledge of lobbying activities that have been brought to bear on any legislative or administrative action.

Chapter 2.16 - Conflict of Interest

Article I. City Employee—Interests in Contract

Article II. Former Officers and Employees—Disqualification

Article III. City Council and City Boards and Commissions

Article IV. City Employees

Chapter 4.02 – Code of Ethics

City employees shall treat their office or position as a public trust. The city's powers and resources shall be used for the benefit of the public rather than any city employee's personal benefit.

- Nepotism policy
- Whistleblower protection policy
- Mandatory ethics training
- Mandatory sexual harassment training
- Political Reform Act and regulations

Chapter 4.04 – Sunshine Ordinance

- Minimum posting of council agenda materials – 120 hours.
- Records of city council actions.
- Ad hoc committees are legislative bodies subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- Public records access.
- Website publication of city information.
- Policy training for records management policy, retention schedule, and social media.
- Reporting of behests.
- Use of city resources for conducting city business.

Council Rules of Procedure

Chapter 3 – Conduct of Members

Rule 6.E – Closed Sessions



Thank You!

***ethics@
cityofsacramento.gov***

OVERVIEW

Commissioners collaborate with the Office of the City Clerk to review the City's ethics laws and policies, and make recommendations to the City Council to enhance ethics policies, trainings, and laws in the City of Sacramento.

The Ethics Commission may enforce administrative fines of the laws within its jurisdiction.

CONNECT

Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of ethics laws online, by email, mail, or telephone.

For more information or to file a complaint:



Office of the City Clerk
Sacramento City Hall
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

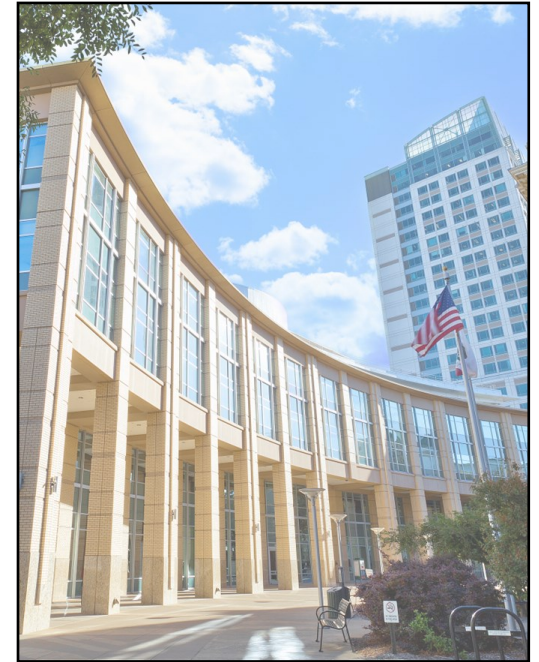
ethics@cityofsacramento.org
(916) 808-7200

Would you like a commissioner to present to your community group? Contact us at ethics@cityofsacramento.org.

Rev. 09-26-2024



Sacramento Ethics Commission



The City of Sacramento Ethics Commission was established in 2017 for the purpose of reviewing and considering complaints against elected and appointed city officials and to ensure those city officials comply with certain city laws and policies.

***Sacramento City Code
Chapter 2.112 further defines
the purpose, powers, and
duties of the commission.***

ETHICS LAWS

Limitation on Future
Employment
City Charter § 35

Fair Campaign Practices
City Code Chapter 1.20

Campaign Contribution Limits
City Code Chapter 2.13

Campaign Spending Limits and
Public Campaign Financing
City Code Chapter 2.14

Lobbyist Registration and
Reporting Code
City Code Chapter 2.15

Conflict of Interest
City Code Chapter 2.16

Code of Ethics
City Code Chapter 4.02

Transparent Government and
Public Engagement
City Code Chapter 4.04

Conduct of Members
and Closed Sessions
Council Rules of Procedure

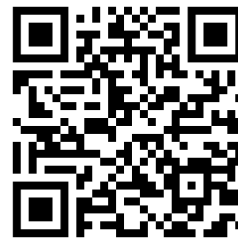
COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Commission consists of 5 city residents nominated by the City Council Personnel and Public Employees Committee and then appointed by the Mayor with the concurrence of the City Council.

Commission meetings are generally held the 4th Monday of each month in City Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Public Participation is Welcomed.

Links to upcoming meetings, commissioner vacancies, and more information can be found here:



ACTIVITIES

Commissioners generally meet monthly to conduct business, which may include any of the following duties:

- Review, investigate and consider complaints against City officials; Enforce administrative penalties for violations.
- Report to City Council with recommendations regarding the subjects of its purview.
- Review any contract the city may have with the Fair Political Practices Commission.
- Provide input on law firms used by City Attorney for sexual harassment investigations.
- Make recommendations on selection of an Independent Evaluator for complaint review.
- Serve as screening panel for Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission candidates.

Sacramento Ethics Commission CITY *of* SACRAMENTO

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Sacramento City Code Chapter 2.112 further defines the purpose, powers, and duties of the commission.

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