

San Francisco
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date Established: November 6, 2001

Active

ETHICS COMMISSION 2002

Contact and Address:

LeeAnn Pelham Executive Director
Ethics Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 252-3100

Fax: (415) 252-3112

Email: leeann.pelham@sfgov.org

Authority:

Charter Section 15.100. (Proposition E – Elections, Ethics & Outside Counsel approved by the voters on November 6, 2001)

Board Qualifications:

The Ethics Commission shall consist of five members, one member of whom is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The member appointed by the Board of Supervisors shall be broadly representative of the general public.

The Mayor, the City Attorney, the District Attorney and the Assessor each shall appoint one member of the Commission that comprise the other four members. The member appointed by the Mayor shall have a background in public information and public meetings. The member appointed by the City Attorney shall have a background in law as it relates to government ethics. The member appointed by the Assessor shall have a background in campaign finance. The member appointed by the District Attorney shall be broadly representative of the general public.

The members shall serve six-year terms, provided that the first five commissioners to be appointed to take office on the first day of February 2002 shall by lot classify their terms so that the term of one commissioner shall expire at 12:00 noon on each of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth anniversaries of such date, and on the expiration of these and successive terms of office, the appointments shall be made for six-year terms. In the event of a vacancy, the officer who appointed the member vacating the office shall appoint a qualified person to complete the remainder of the term.

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Members of the Commission shall be officers of the City and County, and may be removed by the appointing authority only pursuant to Section 15.105. No person may serve more than one six-year term as a member of the Commission, provided that persons appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term with less than three years remaining or appointed to an initial term of three or fewer years shall be eligible to be appointed to one additional six-year term. Any term served before the effective date of this Section shall not count toward a member's term limit. Any person who completes a term as a Commissioner shall be eligible for reappointment six years after the expiration of his or her term.

During his or her tenure, a member of the Commission may not: hold any other City or County office or be an officer of a political party. No member or employee of the Ethics Commission may be a registered lobbyist or campaign consultant, or be employed by or receive gifts or other compensation from a registered lobbyist or campaign consultant. No member or employee of the Ethics Commission may participate in any campaign supporting or opposing a candidate for City elective office, a City ballot measure, or a City officer running for any elective office. Participation in a campaign includes but is not limited to making contributions or soliciting contributions to any committee within the Ethics Commission's jurisdiction, publicly endorsing or urging endorsement of a candidate or ballot measure, or participating in decisions by organizations to participate in a campaign.

The Commission may subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance and testimony, administer oaths and affirmations, take evidence and require by subpoena the production of any books, papers, records or other items material to the performance of the Commission's duties or exercise of its powers.

The Commission serves the public, city employees and officials and candidates for public office through education and enforcement of ethics laws. The Commission provides open access to public records in ethics-related matters. The Commission acts as filing officer for, and auditor of, financial disclosure statements filed by political candidates and committees and designated City and County employees. The Commission assesses fees and penalties for failure to adhere to deadlines and requirements, audits statements to ensure compliance with contribution limits, administers an education program, and produces educational materials. It also oversees registration and regulation of lobbyists, investigates ethics complaints, provides advice on ethical matters and publishes statistical reports.

Its duties include: filing and auditing of campaign finance disclosure statements; campaign consultant registration and regulation; lobbyist registration and regulation; filing officer for statements of economic interest; administration of the Whistleblower program; investigations of ethics complaints; enforcement education and training; and providing advice and statistical reporting.

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Reports: Statistical reports

Sunset Date: None