



Bring Sunshine to Campaigns! 2013-2014 Money in Politics Disclosure Bills

California's good campaign disclosure laws need to be strengthened so that voters get the information they need when it matters most.

- Voters should be able to easily "follow the money" to see who is funding political activity.
- Because of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, improved disclosure is the only way for the public to know who is paying for political campaigns.
- The LWVC sponsors the Sunshine in Campaigns Act bills and supports others to take a comprehensive approach to improving California's disclosure laws.

SB 27 (Correa) closes the loophole that allows nonprofits to contribute huge sums in California elections without disclosure. SB 27 will:

- clarify the law about who must disclose donors. Campaigns must not be able to launder funds through nonprofit corporations without disclosing the true source of the money.
- require the top contributors supporting or opposing big ballot measure campaigns be listed on the Internet.
- **Status:** Awaiting a final floor vote in the Assembly. (Next step is Senate vote on concurrence in Assembly amendments, and then it's on to the Governor for his signature.)

AB 800 (Gordon) gives the Fair Political Practices Commission important tools to investigate suspected violations. AB 800 will:

- give the FPPC audit and injunctive relief power to investigate suspected violations prior to Election Day or to the date of a required filing
- streamline the process of disclosure, reporting, and enforcement for greater efficiency and cost saving.
- **Status:** Signed by the Governor! Takes effect July 1, 2014.

SB 2 (Lieu and Yee) increases transparency by strengthening enforcement and improving the information provided to voters about campaign funding. SB 2 will:

- increase the penalties for violating campaign laws so fines are not simply chalked up as the cost of doing business
- require state candidates to "Stand by Your Ad," as federal candidates have done for more than a decade
- toughen slate mailer disclosure. The notice to voters will be required to appear in the same languages as the mailer, and voters will be alerted when slate mailer ads are purchased by third parties or independent expenditures.
- **Status:** Awaiting its final floor vote in the Assembly, its second house.

SB 52 (Leno) will require the three largest funders of political ads to be clearly and legibly identified on the ads themselves.

- applies to all kinds of political ads, including television, radio, print advertising, and websites.
- **Status:** Awaiting hearing in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.

SB 3 (Yee and Lieu) Cal-Access, the current campaign and lobbying online disclosure system, dates from 1999 and is sorely in need of upgrading. SB 3 would have required a feasibility study, the first step in replacing Cal-Access; required timely training and certification for campaign treasurers; and increased the fines for late filing of reports, with the increased funds going to the new online disclosure system.

- **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor. He objected to the treasurer training provision but pledged further work on the online disclosure system.

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