



Fair Campaign Practices Commission

PUBLIC HEARING

February 4, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Fair Campaign Practices Commission

Submitted by: Dean Metzger, Chairperson, Fair Campaign Practices Commission

Subject: Amendments to the Berkeley Election Reform Act to prohibit Officeholder Accounts; Amending BMC Chapter 2.12

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt first reading of an ordinance amending the Berkeley Election Reform Act, Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 2.12, to prohibit Officeholder Accounts (See [Section 18531.62. Elected State Officeholder Bank Accounts, Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission](#)).

SUMMARY

Contributions to and expenditures from Officeholder Accounts provide an unfair advantage to incumbents. They also increase the reliance on private campaign contributions and risk increasing the perception of corruption. Amending the Berkeley Election Reform Act to prohibit Officeholder Accounts will help to level the playing field in municipal elections, which was also a goal of the Fair Elections Act of 2016.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The proposed amendments to the Berkeley Election Reform Act (BERA) were adopted by the Fair Campaign Practices Commission (FCPC) at its regular meeting of November 21, 2019.

**Action:** M/S/C (Smith/Saver) to adopt the proposed amendments to BERA related to Officeholder Accounts.

**Vote:** Ayes: Metzger, Ching, Saver, Blome, McLean, Tsang, Smith; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: O'Donnell (excused).

Pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code Section 2.12.051, BERA may be amended by the "double green light" process. This process requires that the FCPC adopt the amendments by a two-thirds vote, and the City Council hold a public hearing and adopt the amendments by a two-thirds vote.

## BACKGROUND

The Fair Campaign Practices Commission has supported creating the circumstances in which the incumbent and challengers during an election play on as level a playing field as possible and reducing the influence of private campaign contributions. For instance, the Berkeley Fair Elections Act of 2016, which was passed by voters and recommended to Council by the Commission, included the following express purposes:

- Eliminate the danger of actual corruption of Berkeley officials caused by the private financing of campaigns.
- Help reduce the influence of private campaign contributions on Berkeley government.
- Reduce the impact of wealth as a determinant of whether a person becomes a candidate.

(Section 2.12.490(B)-(D).)

A recent inquiry to the Commission Secretary regarding the regulation of Officeholder Accounts resulted in a request from a Commissioner to have discussion of these accounts placed on the May 16, 2019 agenda for possible action. The following motion was made and passed at that meeting:

Motion to request staff work with Commissioner Smith to bring to a future meeting background information and a proposal to eliminate officeholder accounts (M/S/C: O'Donnell/Blome; Ayes: Blome, Ching, McLean, Metzger, O'Donnell, Saver, Smith, Tsui; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Harper (excused)).

## **Definition of an Officeholder Account**

Under state law, an "officeholder account" refers to the funds held in a single bank account at a financial institution in the State of California separate from any other bank account held by the officeholder and that are used for "paying expenses associated with holding public office." Officeholder Account funds cannot be used to pay "campaign expenses." This definition is drawn from state law applicable to statewide elected officials: Government Code section 85316 (Attachment 2), and the accompanying regulation by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) codified at Title 2, Division 6, of the California Code of Regulations, [Section 18531.62](#) (Attachment 3).

Contributions to or expenditures from an Officeholder Account are not subject to BERA's reporting requirements. (The FPPC still requires the reporting of activity relating to Officeholder Accounts, which is available to view on Berkeley's [Public Access Portal](#).) If, however, a complaint is filed that an Officeholder Account is used for

campaign contributions or to pay “campaign expenses,” BERA can be used to respond to the complaint. The legal arguments for these statements are contained in a memorandum signed by City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque to Aide to Mayor Shirley Dean, Barbara Gilbert, dated December 28, 1999 and a December 9, 1991 memorandum by Secretary and Staff Counsel to the FCPC, Sarah Reynoso, that is attached to the December 28, 1999 memo. (Attachment 4.) Because the BERA provisions relied on in these memoranda have not been amended, and because no other BERA provisions have been added to regulate officeholder accounts, the memoranda’s conclusions remain valid and are still controlling guidance.

### **Contributions to Officeholder Accounts**

Funds raised for Officeholder Accounts in Berkeley are not subject to any limitations, either from the FPPC or BERA. Neither is there a limit on the total amount the Officeholder Account fund may receive in contributions per year. Contributions to an elected official’s Officeholder Account may put that contributor in a more favorable light with the elected official than might otherwise be the case.

### **Expenditures from Officeholder Accounts**

Except for the restriction that Officeholder Account funds cannot be used for “campaign expenses,” BERA does not restrict how funds from Officeholder Accounts can be used.

There are a number of permissible expenditures from Officeholder Accounts that could put an elected official in a favorable light with voters that are not available to a challenger for that office. A donation to a nonprofit organization, although technically not a “campaign expense,” would be seen favorably by those receiving the funds as well as individuals favorably disposed to the nonprofit organization receiving the funds. An individual running against this incumbent would have to draw on their own resources to make contributions to nonprofit organizations.

As long as political campaigns are not included, newsletters mailed to constituents related to events, information, or an officeholder’s position on matters before the Council are a permissible Officeholder Account expenditure. This keeps the incumbent’s name in front of the voter in a way unavailable to a challenger unless they pay for a newsletter and its distribution from their own resources.

Expenditures from Officeholder Account funds for flowers and other expressions of condolences, congratulations, or appreciation, while technically not “campaign expenses,” also increase the probability that the recipient will be favorably predisposed toward the elected official as a candidate for reelection or election to another office. Again, a challenger would have to draw on their own resources to express condolences, congratulations, or appreciation to their potential supporters.

Further, officeholder accounts can be used to pay for a broad range of office expenses, such as meals, travel, parking tickets, or contributions to other candidates or political parties.<sup>1</sup> Eliminating officeholder accounts would reduce reliance on and the influence of private contributions for these expenditures.

## Recommendation

To make elections more equitable between challengers and incumbent and for the reasons given above, the Fair Campaign Practices Commission recommends prohibiting Officeholder Accounts.

Berkeley will not be the first to prohibit Officeholder Accounts. The San Jose Municipal Code was amended to prohibit officeholder accounts in January 2008. ([Chapter 12.06 – ELECTIONS, San Jose, CA Code of Ordinances, p. 10](#))

### Part 8 - OFFICEHOLDER ACCOUNTS

#### 12.06.810 - Officeholder account prohibited.

No city officeholder, or any person or committee on behalf of a city officeholder may establish an officeholder account or an account established under the Political Reform Act, California Government Code Section 8100 et seq. as amended, for the solicitation or expenditure of officeholder funds. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an officeholder from spending personal funds on official or related business activities.

The following additions to BERA are proposed:

#### **2.12.157 Officeholder Account**

“Officeholder Account” means any bank account maintained by an elected officer or by any person or committee on behalf of an elected officer, and whose funds are used for expenses associated with holding office and not for direct campaign purposes.

#### **2.12.441 Officeholder account prohibited**

- A. No elected officer, or any person or committee on behalf of an elected officer, may establish an officeholder account.
- B. No elected officer, or any person or committee on behalf of an elected officer, may use contributions, as defined in 2.12.100, for expenses associated with holding office.

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<sup>1</sup> Under state law applicable to state elected officials, officeholders may use campaign contributions for “expenses that are associated with holding office.” (Govt. Code, § 89510.) To qualify, expenditures must be “reasonably related to a legislative or governmental purpose.” (*Id.*, § 89512.) “Expenditures which confer a substantial personal benefit shall be directly related to a political, legislative, or governmental purpose.” (*Ibid.*)

- C. Anyone holding an active Officeholder Account on the date this change to BERA is adopted on a second reading by the City Council has one year from that date to terminate their Officeholder Account, in accordance with FPCC guidelines.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identified environmental effects related to the recommendation in this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This proposed change to BERA will help to level the playing field between challengers and the incumbent running for elective office.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

A Subcommittee was formed to consider the options of (1) amending the Berkeley Elections Reform Act, BMC Chapter 2.12, to prohibit Officeholder Accounts, (2) amending BERA to mitigate possible advantages incumbents with an Officeholder Accounts have over challengers, or (3) doing nothing with regard to Officeholder Accounts. The four members of the Subcommittee recommended unanimously to the full Commission to amend the Berkeley Elections Reform Act, BMC Chapter 2.12, to prohibit Officeholder Accounts.

#### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of this report.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Dean Metzger, Chair, Fair Campaign Practices Commission. 981-6998

#### Attachments:

- 1: Proposed Ordinance
- 2: Government Code section 85316
- 3: Section 18531.62 (Elected State Officeholder Bank Accounts), Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, Title 2, Division 6, California Code of Regulations
- 4: Memorandum signed by City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque to Aide to Mayor Shirley Dean, Barbara Gilbert (including attached memorandum signed by Secretary and Staff Counsel to the FCPC, Sarah Reynoso, to the FCPC)

ORDINANCE NO. ##,###-N.S.

OFFICEHOLDER ACCOUNT PROHIBITED; AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE  
CHAPTER 2.12

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.12.157 is added to read as follows:

**BMC 2.12.157 Officeholder account**

“Officeholder Account” means any bank account maintained by an elected officer or by any person or committee on behalf of an elected officer, and whose funds are used for expenses associated with holding office and not for direct campaign purposes.

Section 2. That Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.12.441 is added to read as follows:

**BMC 2.12.441 Officeholder account prohibited**

- A. No elected officer, or any person or committee on behalf of an elected officer, may establish an officeholder account.
- B. No elected officer, or any person or committee on behalf of an elected officer, may use contributions, as defined in 2.12.100, for expenses associated with holding office.
- C. This provision does not affect a candidate’s ability to establish a legal defense fund or the requirements for such a fund, as set forth in the Political Reform Act or by regulation.
- D. Any active Officeholder Account on the date this change to BERA is adopted on a second reading by the City Council has one year from that date to terminate their Officeholder Account.

Section 3. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation


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## GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV

**TITLE 9. POLITICAL REFORM [81000 - 91014]** ( Title 9 added June 4, 1974, by initiative Proposition 9. )

**CHAPTER 5. Limitations on Contributions [85100 - 85802]** ( Chapter 5 added June 7, 1988, by initiative Proposition 73. )

### ARTICLE 3. Contribution Limitations [85300 - 85321]

( Article 3 added June 7, 1988, by initiative Proposition 73. )

**85316.** (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a contribution for an election may be accepted by a candidate for elective state office after the date of the election only to the extent that the contribution does not exceed net debts outstanding from the election, and the contribution does not otherwise exceed the applicable contribution limit for that election.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), an elected state officer may accept contributions after the date of the election for the purpose of paying expenses associated with holding the office provided that the contributions are not expended for any contribution to any state or local committee. Contributions received pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited into a bank account established solely for the purposes specified in this subdivision.

(1) No person shall make, and no elected state officer shall receive from a person, a contribution pursuant to this subdivision totaling more than the following amounts per calendar year:

(A) Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in the case of an elected state officer of the Assembly or Senate.

(B) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in the case of a statewide elected state officer other than the Governor.

(C) Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in the case of the Governor.

(2) No elected state officer shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraph (1) that, in the aggregate, total more than the following amounts per calendar year:

(A) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the case of an elected state officer of the Assembly or Senate.

(B) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the case of a statewide elected state officer other than the Governor.

(C) Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in the case of the Governor.

(3) Any contribution received pursuant to this subdivision shall be deemed to be a contribution to that candidate for election to any state office that he or she may seek during the term of office to which he or she is currently elected, including, but not limited to, reelection to the office he or she currently holds, and shall be subject to any applicable contribution limit provided in this title. If a contribution received pursuant to this subdivision exceeds the allowable contribution limit for the office sought, the candidate shall return the amount exceeding the limit to the contributor on a basis to be determined by the Commission. None of the expenditures made by elected state officers pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to the voluntary expenditure limitations in Section 85400.

(4) The commission shall adjust the calendar year contribution limitations and aggregate contribution limitations set forth in this subdivision in January of every odd-numbered year to reflect any increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index. Those adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars (\$100).

*(Amended by Stats. 2007, Ch. 130, Sec. 149. Effective January 1, 2008. Note: This section was added by Stats. 2000, Ch. 102, and approved in Prop. 34 on Nov. 7, 2000.)*



(Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, Title 2, Division 6, California Code of Regulations.)

**§ 18531.62. Elected State Officeholder Bank Accounts.**

(a) Application and Definitions. For purposes of Section 85316(b) and this regulation, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Officeholder" means an elected state officer.

(2) "Officeholder controlled committee" means a committee formed pursuant to subdivision (c) of this regulation.

(3) "Officeholder account" means the bank account established at a financial institution located in the State of California pursuant to Section 85316(b).

(4) "Officeholder funds" means money in the officeholder account.

(b) Establishing the Officeholder Account: For purposes of Section 85316(b), an officeholder shall maintain officeholder funds in a single bank account separate from any other bank account held by the officeholder.

(c) Establishing the Officeholder Controlled Committee, Reporting and Recordkeeping:

(1) Formation: The officeholder shall establish a controlled committee by filing a statement of organization pursuant to Section 84101 if the officeholder receives \$2,000 or more in officeholder contributions in a calendar year.

(2) Committee Name: The controlled committee name shall include the officeholder's last name, the office held, the year the officeholder was elected to the current term of office, and the words "Officeholder Account." The statement of organization shall include the name, account number, and address of the financial institution where the committee established the officeholder account.



(3) Filing Requirements: The controlled committee shall file campaign statements and reports pursuant to Chapters 4 and 5, except Sections 85200 and 85201, of Title 9 of the Government Code at the same times and in the same places as it otherwise would be required to do for any other controlled committee formed by the officeholder for election to state office.

(4) Required Recordkeeping and Audits. The officeholder and treasurer shall be subject to recordkeeping requirements under Section 84104. The officeholder account and officeholder controlled committee shall be subject to audits under Chapter 10 of Title 9 of the Government Code. Any audit of the officeholder, or any of his or her controlled committees, under Section 90001 shall include all officeholder accounts and officeholder controlled committees maintained by the officeholder during the audit period as described in Regulation 18996(a)(1).

(d) Prohibitions:

(1) Officeholder funds may not be contributed or transferred to another state or local committee, including any other controlled committee of the officeholder, except as permitted in subdivisions (g) (2) and (g)(3).

(2) Officeholders may not use officeholder funds to pay "campaign expenses" as defined in Regulation 18525(a).

(3) The officeholder may not transfer or contribute funds from any other committee he or she controls to the officeholder account, except as permitted in subdivision (g)(2) and (g)(3).

(e) Contributions to the Officeholder Account:

(1)(A) Required Notices: In addition to the requirements of Regulation 18523.1, a written solicitation for contributions to the officeholder account shall include the following: "For purposes of the Political Reform Act's contribution limits, a contribution to an officeholder

account is also considered to be a contribution to all campaign committees for future elective state office the officeholder seeks during his or her current term of office.

(B) In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A) above, an officeholder who files a statement of intention to be a candidate for any elective state office during the officeholder's term of office shall provide notice of this filing to every person that has made a contribution to his or her officeholder account. The notice shall contain the language in subparagraph (A) and be transmitted or mailed within 10 days of filing the statement of intention to be a candidate.

(2) Cumulation: A contribution to the officeholder account shall also be deemed a contribution to the officeholder's controlled committee for election to elective state office for the purposes of Section 85316(b)(3) only under all of the following circumstances:

(A) The contributor makes the contribution between the day the election was held for the term of office for which the officeholder account was established and the end of that term of office;

(B) The officeholder maintains the controlled committee, established for a future term of elective state office, at any time during the period covered in subparagraph (A).

(3) Cumulation and Primary and General Elections: A person's contributions to the officeholder account, when combined with contributions from the same person for a primary and general election to the elective state office may not exceed the contribution limits applicable to the primary and general election.

(4) Multiple Officeholder Accounts: When an officeholder maintains more than one officeholder account in the same calendar year, he or she may not receive the following contributions to any of those accounts during that calendar year:

(A) Contributions from a single contributor that, when cumulated for all the accounts, exceed the maximum amount the contributor could give to the officeholder account having the highest per person contribution limit under Section 85316(b)(1).

(B) Contributions from all contributors that, when cumulated for all the accounts, exceed the maximum amount in total contributions the officeholder could receive in the officeholder account having the highest aggregate contribution limit under Section 85316(b)(2).

(f) Contributions Over the Limits:

(1) An officeholder shall return to the contributor the portion of any contribution to his or her officeholder account that exceeds the limits of Section 85301, 85302 (after cumulation) or 85316 (either alone or after cumulation) by the earlier of 14 days of receipt or 14 days of the date the officeholder files a statement of intention to be a candidate for elective state office pursuant to Section 85200.

(2) A contributor to the officeholder account does not violate the contribution limits applying to the officeholder's election to a future elective state office as otherwise provided under Section 85316(b)(3) if, when he or she makes the contribution, the officeholder has not filed a statement of organization to establish a controlled committee for election to a future elective state office.

(g) Terminating Officeholder Accounts and Committees.

(1) The officeholder may not accept contributions after the officeholder's term of office ends or the date he or she leaves that office, whichever is earlier.

(2) The officeholder may redesignate the officeholder account as an officeholder controlled committee for a future term of the same office by amending the statement of

organization for the committee to reflect the redesignation for the future term of office prior to the date the officer's term of office ends.

(3) An officeholder may redesignate officeholder funds in the redesignated officeholder account as officeholder funds for the new term of office, subject to the limitations in subdivision (e)(4).

(4) Once the officeholder's term of office ends or he or she leaves that office, whichever is earlier, the officeholder may only use his or her officeholder funds for the following purposes:

- (A) Paying outstanding officeholder expenses.
- (B) Repaying contributions to contributors to the officeholder account.
- (C) Making a donation to a bona fide charitable, educational, civic, religious, or similar tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, if no substantial part of the proceeds will have a material financial effect on the officeholder, a member of his or her immediate family, or his or her committee treasurer.

(D) Paying for professional services reasonably required by the officeholder controlled committee to assist in the performance of its administrative functions.

(5) The officeholder shall terminate the officeholder controlled committee within 90 days of the date the officer's term of office ends or he or she leaves that office, whichever is earlier. The Executive Director may for good cause extend the termination date or permit the candidate to reopen the account.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Sections 84104, 85316 and 90000-90007, Government Code.

**HISTORY**

1. New section filed 7-3-2007; operative 8-2-2007. Submitted to OAL for filing pursuant to *Fair Political Practices Commission v. Office of Administrative Law*, 3 Civil C010924, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, nonpublished decision, April 27, 1992 (FPPC regulations only subject to 1974 Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking requirements and not subject to procedural or substantive review by OAL) (Register 2007, No. 27). For prior history, see Register 2007, No. 26.
2. Change without regulatory effect amending section filed 3-22-2016; operative 4-21-2016 pursuant to 2 CCR 18312(e). Submitted to OAL for filing pursuant to *Fair Political Practices Commission v. Office of Administrative Law*, 3 Civil C010924, California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, nonpublished decision, April 27, 1992 (FPPC regulations only subject to 1974 Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking requirements and not subject to procedural or substantive review by OAL) (Register 2016, No. 13).



Office of the  
City Attorney

**DATE:** December 28, 1999

**TO:** BARBARA GILBERT,  
Aide to Mayor Shirley Dean

**FROM:** MANUELA ALBUQUERQUE, City Attorney *MA*  
By: CAMILLE COUREY, Deputy City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** APPLICATION OF BERKELEY ELECTION REFORM ACT TO OFFICEHOLDER ACCOUNTS

ISSUE:

Does the Berkeley Election Reform Act (BERA) govern officeholder accounts?

CONCLUSION:

No. The BERA does not govern true officeholder accounts per se. However, the mere fact that an account may be designated an officeholder account does not insulate it from scrutiny under the BERA or other applicable local law if the officeholder account is not used strictly for officeholder purposes or if some action taken with respect to the officeholder account implicates campaign contributions and expenditures or other applicable local laws.

ANALYSIS:

Sarah Reynoso, former secretary and staff counsel to the Fair Campaign Practices Commission (FCPC), issued an opinion to the FCPC dated December 2, 1991, a copy of which is attached, stating that the BERA's contribution limit does not apply to contributions made to an officeholder account. The opinion reasons that the BERA's contribution limit applies only to "contributions" as defined in the BERA, i.e., which are made directly or indirectly in support of or in opposition to the nomination or election of one or more candidates to elective office. (See Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) § 2.12.100.) Contributions to a true officeholder account are not made for the purpose of nominating or electing a candidate to office, but rather for the use of an officeholder in carrying out the duties of his or her office. Therefore, the contribution limit of the BERA is inapplicable to officeholder accounts.<sup>1</sup> For similar reasons, the BERA does not

<sup>1</sup> However, the opinion also provided that contributions to officeholder accounts still had to be reported on campaign statements because the State Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Regulations broadly defined contributions as any contribution for "political purposes." Since officeholder expenses are for political purposes, they must be reported to the State.

Barbara Gilbert

Re: Application of Berkeley Election Reform Act To Officeholder Accounts

December 28, 1999

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apply to true officeholder accounts.

The BERA requires the filing of statements to report the amounts received and expended in municipal elections. (See BMC §§ 2.12.015, 2.12.030 through 2.12.050) Specifically, a "campaign statement" required to be filed under the BERA is an itemized report which provides the information required by Sections 2.12.245 through 2.12.325 of the BERA. (BMC § 2.12.080.) Sections 2.12.245 through 2.12.325 govern the reporting of contributions and expenditures. "Contributions" and "expenditures" are defined by the BERA as any amounts received or expended, respectively, in aid of or in opposition to the nomination or election of one or more candidates to elective office. (See BMC §§ 2.12.100 and 2.12.130.) Contributions to or expenditures from a true officeholder account are not subject to the BERA's reporting requirements because they are made for the purpose of carrying out the duties of elective office, and not for the purpose of aiding or opposing the nomination or election of one or more candidates to elective office.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the BERA does not apply to true officeholder accounts.

However, the fact that an account may be designated as an officeholder account will not shield it from scrutiny under the BERA if the officeholder account is, in fact, being used for the receipt of contributions or the making of expenditures in aid of the nomination or election of a candidate for local elective office. Nor will BERA requirements, such as the \$250 contribution limit or the prohibition against contributions from businesses to candidates, be held inapplicable if contributions made initially to an officeholder account are transferred subsequently to a campaign account. Where the actions taken with respect to an officeholder account implicate campaign contributions and expenditures in municipal elections, the officeholder account will be scrutinized under the BERA and other applicable local law.

Attachment

cc: Fair Campaign Practices Commission  
Sherry Kelly, City Clerk

City Attorney Opinion Index: ILE 1. and IILG.

CCM

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<sup>2</sup> Again, however, the State FPPC still requires the reporting of activity relating to an officeholder account. (See footnote 1.)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE BERKELEY ELECTION REFORM ACT**

The Fair Campaign Practices Commission is proposing amendments to the Berkeley Election Reform Act related to the prohibition of officeholder accounts.

The hearing will be held on, February 4, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the School District Board Room, 1231 Addison Street.

A copy of the agenda material for this hearing will be available on the City’s website at [www.CityofBerkeley.info](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info) as of **January 30, 2020**.

For further information, please contact Samuel Harvey, Commission Secretary at 981-6998.

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet.

Communications to the Berkeley City Council are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the City Clerk. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk at 981-6900 or [clerk@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:clerk@cityofberkeley.info) for further information.

**Published:** January 24, 2020 – The Berkeley Voice  
Pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code Section 2.12.051

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I hereby certify that the Notice for this Public Hearing of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City’s website, on January 30, 2020.

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Mark Numainville, City Clerk