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**The Fair Political Practices Commission  
Amends Levine Act Regulations**

On January 1, 2025, amendments to California Government Code 84308 (the Levine Act) took effect, impacting California's elected officials who are subject to its jurisdiction. The Ethics Commission's January [press release](#) describes the changes that took effect in the new year.

In late March, the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) published [regulations](#) further refining the application of the Levine Act. According to the [FPPC's Staff Report](#) "[t]he proposed amendments would conform existing regulations with the recently amended statutory provisions of Section 84308, eliminate redundant or outdated language, and clean up other outstanding issues in need of clarification in light of recent advice letters."

Below you will find a link to each amended or repealed regulation, and a short summary of each:

- [Amendment to Regulation 18438](#) – Application of Government Code Section 84308
  - Clarifies that the version of the Levine Act in effect at the time of the relevant conduct is the applicable version of the statute.
- [Amendment to Regulation 18438.2](#) – Proceedings Under Government Code Section 84308
  - Updates statutory references and deletes terms now codified under the Levine Act.
- [Repeal of Regulation 18438.3](#) – Agents Under Government Code Section 84308
  - Repealed because the definition of agent was added as California Government Code 84308(h).

- [Amendment to Regulation 18438.4](#) – Participants Under Government Code Section 84308
  - Clarifies that where a participant is a business or nonprofit, materiality is determined under the standard set by Regulation 18702.3.
- [Amendment to Regulation 18438.5](#) – Aggregated Contributions Under Government Code Section 84308
  - Removes the references to aggregation of agent contributions because under the revised 84308(g), such contributions are no longer aggregated.
- [Amendment to Regulation 18438.6](#) – Solicitation, Direction, and Receipt of Contributions Under Government Code Section 84308
  - Clarifies that the disclosure and disqualification requirements apply to state or county central committees.
- [Amendment to Regulation 18438.7](#) – Prohibitions and Disqualification Under Government Code Section 84308
  - Clarifies the standard for when an officer “knew or should have known” about a contribution for purposes of Section 84308(c) and (d).
- [Amendment to Regulation 18438.8](#) – Disclosure Under Government Code Section 84308.
  - Conforms the regulation to the statute permitting an official to disclose a contribution before the date that any decision is rendered. Adds that an official who returns a contribution should disclose the return within 60 days either at a public meeting or into the agency’s official records.
- [Amendment to Regulation 18360.1](#) – Eligibility Requirements and Considerations for Campaign Violations -Streamline (Tiers One and Two), Warning Letters and the Political Reform Education Program (PREP)
  - No substantive changes were made to this regulation, but the Commission discussed possible future revision to the streamline program.
- [Amendment to Regulation 18705](#) – Legally Required Participation
  - Amends the previous \$250 limit to the current \$500 limit.

It appears the California Legislature may be interested in pursuing further amendments to the Levine Act. For instance, Assembly Bill 351 would raise the contribution limit in the

Levine Act from \$500 to \$1,500 and would require that amount to be adjusted by the FPPC periodically to reflect any increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index. Assembly Bill 351 failed in Committee on April 30, 2025, but reconsideration was granted. Even if this bill does not move forward this year, it is possible that the Levine Act landscape will continue to change.

The San Diego Ethics Commission will monitor developments related to the Levine Act and is available to educate and advise the community regarding the Ethics Commission's interpretation of the law. You may reach out to the Ethics Commission with any questions by calling 619-533-3476 or emailing our office at [ethicscommission@sandiego.gov](mailto:ethicscommission@sandiego.gov).

Please note, however, that the FPPC has sole jurisdiction to administer, interpret, and enforce the Political Reform Act (PRA), the amended statutory language, and any associated regulations. The FPPC is the enforcement agency for Levine Act violations. Accordingly, you may also direct any questions to the FPPC at [advice@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:advice@fppc.ca.gov).

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The Ethics Commission is an independent City entity dedicated to monitoring, enforcing, and reforming the City's ethics laws. The Commission has jurisdiction over City laws regarding ethics, campaign finance, and lobbying. Commission staff provide the regulated community with education and advice regarding ethics laws, conduct investigations, audit City campaign committees, and propose related legislation.

For more information, we invite you to visit our website, [www.sandiego.gov/ethics](http://www.sandiego.gov/ethics), or to contact our office at [ethicscommission@sandiego.gov](mailto:ethicscommission@sandiego.gov).