

Political Reform Act of 1974 AMENDMENT BILLS

As you have heard,-- a year ago the Board of Supervisors had placed on the November ballot-- Measure E in hopes to have the Fair Political Practices Commission administer Orange County's Tin Cup Ordinance. Sen. Lou Correa coauthored Senate bill 1226 which would allow all cities and counties who wished to adopt the same arrangement that was already in effect for San Bernardino County --whereby the FPPC could investigate possible violation of local County campaign finance reform ordinances and bring administrative actions against persons who violate these ordinances. However the state legislature voted the measure down before the Election Day so it was a moot issue.

The Board of Supervisors asked Assemblyman Matt Harper of Huntington Beach to carry a like bill this year. Initially, it was written to cover only Orange County in allowing it to enter into an agreement with FPPC to audit and administer the county campaign finance reform Tin Cup as is done in San Bernardino, It was then amended on March 19 to include all cities and counties in the state who wished to contract with the FPPC to administer their local campaign ordinances. However this bill has not proceeded through the committees to come to a vote. Its last action was supposed to be in a committee hearing in April but the author withdrew it

In February Assembly Member Susan Eggman introduced a similar bill, which would only affect the city of Stockton. This bill passed with the 2/3 votes needed and the governor signed it. . However, as of now, the City of Stockton has yet to enter into a contract with the FPPC.

The Chair of the FPPC Jody Remke did tell us that the San Bernardino contract was for two years and is being renegotiated for renewal. The initial costs to the county were surprisingly low but there were few candidates in the off year election. The Commission charged the county the standing lawyers fees for their auditing. We do not know what their charges would be for Stockton and the renewal for San Bernardino. If the entire state could use the FPPC services, they would have to hire a much larger staff raising their costs.

The Chair of the O.C.Board of Supervisors Todd Spitzer with support of the other supervisors established this summer an ad hoc committee of their chief aides to study the current ethics commissions in the state and make a report to the Board. This committee met many times, had speakers from commissions, the FPPC and many others who are involved in campaign finance. At their meeting on September 15, Gary Winuk, the former Chief of the Enforcement Division of the FPPC, reported that when the initial negotiations for the San Bernardino contract were made,-- he suggested that the FPPC do a pre-election audit of all candidates so errors would be detected and could be corrected before the election. This was now possible due to passage of AB-800 granting the FPPC pre-election investigative power. Because of this --one candidate in the 66th District was forced to return an improperly received campaign contribution prior to the election This ad-hoc committee has been

meeting 4 times this week to complete their report before today's deadline BOS make their decision. At Tuesday's meeting they were not sure if the BOS wanted just a report of their information or for them to make a recommendation on whether the BOS should put an initiative on the ballot to establish an ethics commission. At Thursday's meeting the committee presented their information report. We don't know yet what they did at yesterday's meeting.