



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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To: Members, Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
From: Lori Anderson, Communications & Training Officer
Date: August 17, 2014
Re: Strategic Plan Update - Personal Financial Affairs Review/Online Access

AGENDA

At the April meeting, staff will update the Commission on the progress made towards completing the strategic plan action items related to the personal financial affairs statement (F-1).

BACKGROUND

The F-1 is completed and filed annually by

- elected officials – state and county office holders, justices and judges, and local office holders from jurisdictions with 1,000 or more registered voters,
- select state agency directors,
- members of select state boards and commissions,
- professional staff of the legislature and governor,
- public university and college presidents, regents, and trustees,
- community college district and campus presidents and trustees, and
- state technical college trustees.

This list represents about 5,600 annual filers. There are approximately 600 additional F-1s filed by candidates in even-numbered years and 1,600 filed by candidates in odd-numbered years.

The strategic plan contains three F-1 related action items:

- 3.6 Review F-1 requirements to consider changes to laws and rules concerning: reporting thresholds (\$2,000 and \$10,000 thresholds); type and manner of reporting investments (stock values & mutual funds, short term vs. long-term holds, highest value vs. snapshot in time); and the nature and extent of reporting business ownership interests.
- 3.7 Evaluate the feasibility of using a short form for certain local F-1 filers.
- 5.5 Evaluate, through a pro-active stakeholder process, whether the Commission should begin posting on-line some or all information from candidate and annual F-1 forms and, if limited information from F-1s is to be posted, how to accomplish that in a technologically feasible manner and within available resources.

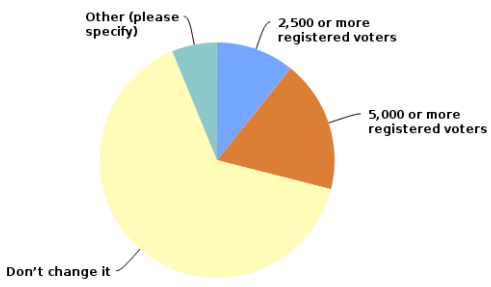
STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Stakeholder and public comment has been collected through:

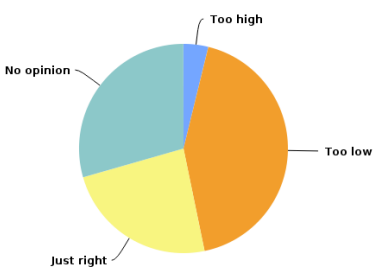
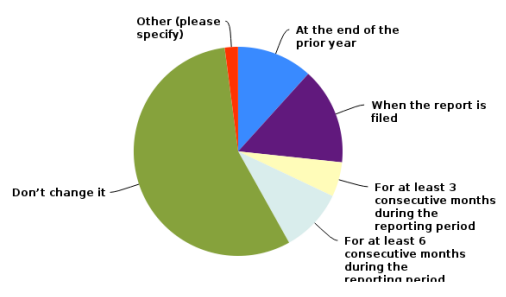
1. A seven-member **work group**. An invitation to participate was extended to all associations serving local elected officials. The work group consisted of F-1 filers or representatives from county government, cities, and fire, water/sewer, and public utility districts. Meetings were held in January, February, and March during which the subjects identified in strategic plan action items 3.6 and 3.7 were reviewed. The work group's recommendations are offered below.
2. An April 1 **stakeholder meeting** where staff received comments regarding online access to F-1 content. The 14 attendees also reviewed the work group's recommendations. The stakeholder meeting was advertised by direct email to individuals on the PDC's stakeholder list and named in the strategic plan action item. The meeting was also advertised on the PDC's website and Facebook page.
3. An **online survey** launched March 21. The survey was open for 3-1/2 weeks and received 520 responses: 361 F-1 filers, 131 non filers, and 28 who didn't answer the "are you a current filer?" question. It was advertised in the reminders sent to F-1 filers and on the PDC's website and Facebook page. It was also linked to the *Seattle Times* Politics Northwest blog on April 7. The *Seattle Times* blog post was reprinted by other papers around the state. The survey was an attempt to create an open opportunity for public comment, allow all F-1 filers to offer their opinion regarding online access and the recommendations of the work group, and for staff to learn why some F-1 filers are reluctant to file electronically.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Commission's consideration, each subject is set out in a separate table on the following pages with distilled discussion points and the resulting recommendations from the work group, stakeholder meeting, and survey responses. In-depth analysis of the survey will be provided at the Commission meeting. The [LEG] and [PDC] notations indicate whether the recommendation could be implemented by the Commission or if the change would require a legislative amendment.

Evaluate the feasibility of using a short form for certain local filers											
Discussion points	Recommendations										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The F-1 is a resource for voters, a resource for determining whether an official may have a conflict of interest, and an opportunity for officials to review their investments each year so as to be sensitive to subjects that could pose conflicts. All filers should disclose the same information. Completing the F-1 can be intimidating for some individuals. The F-1 requirement sometimes makes recruiting new candidates difficult, especially in smaller jurisdictions. Knowing that F-1s are public records deters some people from running for office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise the threshold voter count that determines who files an F-1. [LEG] Add a jurisdiction's annual budget or annual expenditures as a second filing trigger so that officials serving in very small districts will be required to file only if their position exercises significant fiscal authority. (Example: File an F-1 if there are XXX or more registered voters in the jurisdiction OR the jurisdiction's annual expenditures total \$XXX or more.) [LEG] Exempt domestic violence victims from disclosing an address or other real property location information when a protective order has been issued. [PDC] 										
Survey Results	Staff Notes										
<p data-bbox="321 1066 690 1144">Q4 Should the elected officials' F1 filing trigger be changed from 1,000 or more registered voters to:</p> <p data-bbox="430 1150 581 1165">Answered: 483 Skipped: 37</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="289 1186 776 1470"> <caption>Survey Results Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Color</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Don't change it</td> <td>Yellow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5,000 or more registered voters</td> <td>Orange</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,500 or more registered voters</td> <td>Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please specify)</td> <td>Teal</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Color	Don't change it	Yellow	5,000 or more registered voters	Orange	2,500 or more registered voters	Blue	Other (please specify)	Teal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the voter count threshold from 1,000 to 2,500 would have eliminated the officials' 2014 F-1 requirement in 154 jurisdictions. Raising the threshold to 5,000 would have eliminated the filing requirement for 353 jurisdictions in 2014. RCW 42.17A.135 authorizes the Commission to enforce the reporting requirements in a small political subdivision upon receipt of a petition containing valid signatures from 15% of the jurisdiction's registered voters.
Response	Color										
Don't change it	Yellow										
5,000 or more registered voters	Orange										
2,500 or more registered voters	Blue										
Other (please specify)	Teal										

Adjusting F-1 dollar amounts															
Discussion points	Recommendations														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The F-1 dollar amounts were last adjusted in 2008. The \$2,000 threshold for reporting investments is too low. Code E (\$1,000,000 or more) is outdated and uninformative, considering current real estate values and other economic conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust dollar amounts for inflation. [PDC] Restructure the dollar ranges to provide more high-end, detailed ranges. For example, Codes A and B could be combined and more ranges added at the top, such as \$100,000 - \$249,999, \$250,000 - \$999,999, and \$1 Million or more. [LEG] <p>Stakeholder meeting participants generally agreed with these work group recommendations.</p>														
Survey Results	Staff Notes														
<p>Q5 Dollar amounts are currently reported using letter codes A through E, with each letter representing a defined dollar range (e.g., Code A = \$0 to \$3,999, Code B = \$4,000 to \$19,999, etc. to Code E = \$100,000 or more). These dollar codes should be: (Select ALL that apply)</p> <p>Answered: 498 Skipped: 22</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Survey Results Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response Option</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Left as they are (no changes)</td> <td>49.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adjusted for inflation</td> <td>16.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Restructured so that ranges provide...</td> <td>11.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Restructured to add more ranges above...</td> <td>28.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not used - it would be better for actual...</td> <td>11.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please specify)</td> <td>4.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response Option	Percentage	Left as they are (no changes)	49.8%	Adjusted for inflation	16.9%	Restructured so that ranges provide...	11.4%	Restructured to add more ranges above...	28.3%	Not used - it would be better for actual...	11.6%	Other (please specify)	4.4%	<p>See the next section for discussion and recommendations regarding the \$2,000 threshold for disclosing investments.</p>
Response Option	Percentage														
Left as they are (no changes)	49.8%														
Adjusted for inflation	16.9%														
Restructured so that ranges provide...	11.4%														
Restructured to add more ranges above...	28.3%														
Not used - it would be better for actual...	11.6%														
Other (please specify)	4.4%														

Disclosing Investments																									
Discussion points	Recommendations																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000 is a low threshold. The threshold would still be too low after an inflationary adjustment. • It can be difficult to determine what the highest value of some investments was during the reporting period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the disclosure threshold from \$2,000 to a higher amount. [LEG] (The Commission has authority to make inflationary adjustments, but not to change the underlying amount.) • Change the disclosure requirement to be a year-end value instead of the highest value during the reporting period. [LEG] 																								
Survey Results	Staff Notes																								
<p>Q6 Do you think the \$2,000 disclosure threshold for stocks, bonds, and other investments is:</p> <p>Answered: 496 Skipped: 24</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Q6 Survey Results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Color</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Too low</td> <td>Orange</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No opinion</td> <td>Teal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Just right</td> <td>Yellow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Too high</td> <td>Blue</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <hr/> <p>Q7 Currently, investments owned during any part of the reporting period must be disclosed, regardless of the length of time owned. Should this requirement be changed so that investments are disclosed only if owned:</p> <p>Answered: 487 Skipped: 33</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Q7 Survey Results</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Color</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Don't change it</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>For at least 3 consecutive months during the reporting period</td> <td>Light Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>For at least 6 consecutive months during the reporting period</td> <td>Yellow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>When the report is filed</td> <td>Purple</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At the end of the prior year</td> <td>Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please specify)</td> <td>Red</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Color	Too low	Orange	No opinion	Teal	Just right	Yellow	Too high	Blue	Response	Color	Don't change it	Green	For at least 3 consecutive months during the reporting period	Light Blue	For at least 6 consecutive months during the reporting period	Yellow	When the report is filed	Purple	At the end of the prior year	Blue	Other (please specify)	Red	<p>The work group considered and rejected disclosure alternatives used by other states, including reporting only investments that are relevant to the filer's position, allowing for a copy of a federal tax return to be filed instead of the F-1, and disclosing only investments that produce a certain percentage of the household income.</p>
Response	Color																								
Too low	Orange																								
No opinion	Teal																								
Just right	Yellow																								
Too high	Blue																								
Response	Color																								
Don't change it	Green																								
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When the report is filed	Purple																								
At the end of the prior year	Blue																								
Other (please specify)	Red																								

Disclosing business and outside interests	
Discussion points	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of business and outside interests is a critical section of the F-1 given the conflict of interest aspect of the F-1. • The current requirements are satisfactory. 	No changes are recommended.
Survey Results	Staff Notes
No corresponding question in the survey.	Exempting certain relationships, such as volunteer board positions with non-profit groups, social, fraternal and like organizations was considered and rejected since those groups may receive grants or other funding from state, county, cities, or some local government jurisdictions.

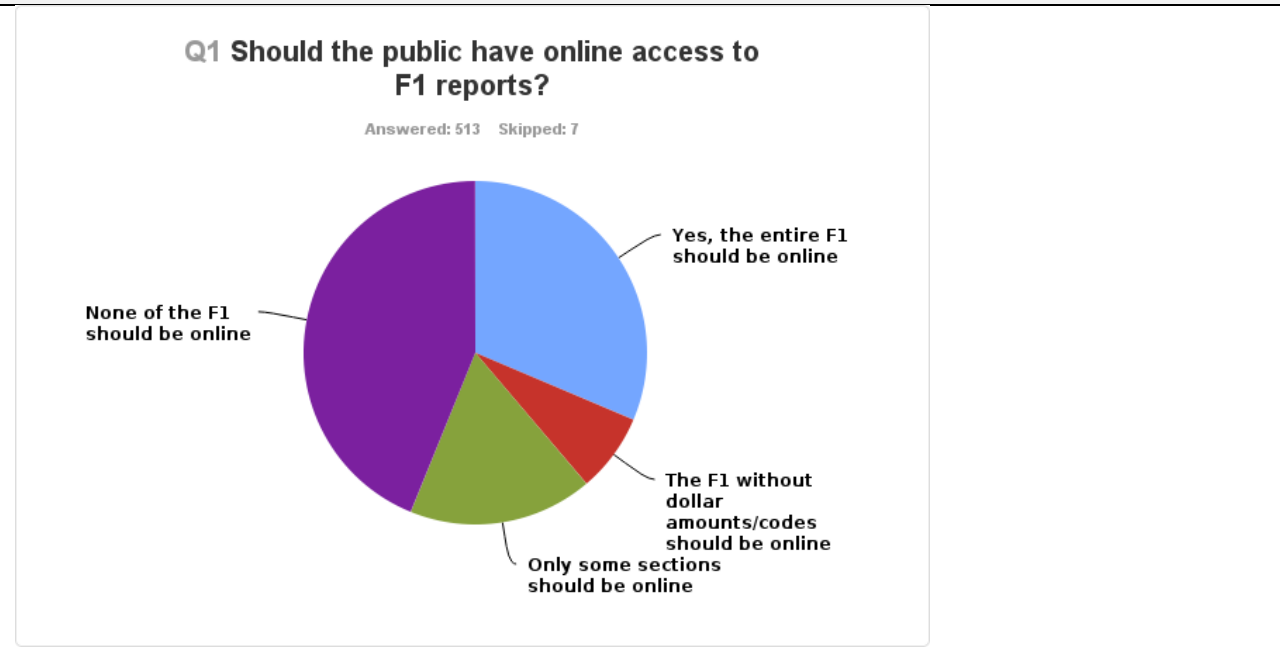
Online access to F-1 content
Comments received from work group members and stakeholder meeting participants
<p>FOR online access -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PDC has a duty to make F-1s public. • There is no legal basis to justify not putting F-1s online. • Most of the F-1 content is public information and available through other means. <p>AGAINST online access –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The F-1 requirement already deters some people from running for office. Having the F-1 content online will likely deter even more people. • Online access could result in filers being harassed by individuals who find their home address or other property identifiers online. • Filers may be concerned about easy access to their children’s names. • F-1 Supplements disclosing businesses should not be online. Putting customers’ names online is a disadvantage for business owners and it is an invasion of the customer’s privacy. <p>OTHER comments –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The F-1 debt section should be included in those that are posted online [at the time of the stakeholder meeting, compensation, real estate without a residential address, and business ownership/outside affiliations – were the top three choices of survey responders who agreed that only some sections should be online].

- The filer's home e-mail address should not be online.
- Newspapers represented by Allied Daily Newspapers are considering putting the F-1s online if the Commission does not. They would most likely make quarterly blanket requests for all newly filed F-1s.
- Change the form to make it more obvious that dependents do not need to be named unless there is something to report for them.
- Assessed value does not reflect the true valuation of real property.

Comments regarding professional staff members –

- Legislators choose to become public figures. Professional staff, especially nonpartisan staff, have not made that choice. What purpose would be served by online access to F-1s filed by professional staff? Nonpartisan staff should be exempt from the F-1 filing requirement, since they are independent of any influence.
- Nonpartisan staff conduct studies, draft bills, etc. and they influence policy even though their work product is relied upon to be independent.
- Legislative staff who are not professional staff as defined by the Commission's rule, WAC 390-24-160, (legislative assistants, aides, etc.) are at least as likely, if not more likely, than non-partisan staff to receive complimentary food and beverage, travel, or the like, and yet they are not required to file an F-1.

Survey Results



Staff notes

Occasionally, F-1s are received that include account numbers or other sensitive information that is not required. At times the staff has returned F-1s with instructions to refile without the sensitive information or redacted the information when it was noticed. There is no current process in place to carefully review F-1s for such content. Additional resources would be needed to perform that type of review.

Separate from this review, the staff recently received a suggestion to enhance the online searchable campaign finance database with an indicator that an F-1 is available. The suggestion was made by someone who requested the F-1 of a new candidate who had not yet filed.

Staff anticipates that having F-1s online may reduce the staff time it currently takes to process the approximately 1,200 – 1,500 requests for copies of F-1 reports typically received each year.

Staff also anticipates that having F-1s online may increase the number of requests for reporting modifications that require both staff and Commission time to review and process.

NEXT STEPS

At this stage, the staff is seeking direction from the Commission regarding:

- Whether stakeholder outreach has provided sufficient information for the Commission to move forward and, if not, what additional outreach would be helpful.
- What other information the Commission wants, if any, to inform its decisions regarding the three strategic plan action items. For example, for items 3.6 (reporting requirements) and 3.7 (short form), does the Commission wish to review:
 - the research of other states' practices that was provided to the work group,
 - more information about who would not be filing F-1s if the threshold voter count was raised, and/or
 - more information about the annual expenditure levels of those jurisdictions whose officials would not be filing F-1s in the event the Commission wants to consider adding an additional filing trigger?

For item 3.5 (online access), does the Commission need additional information about the estimated staff time/cost of putting all reports online versus posting select sections?

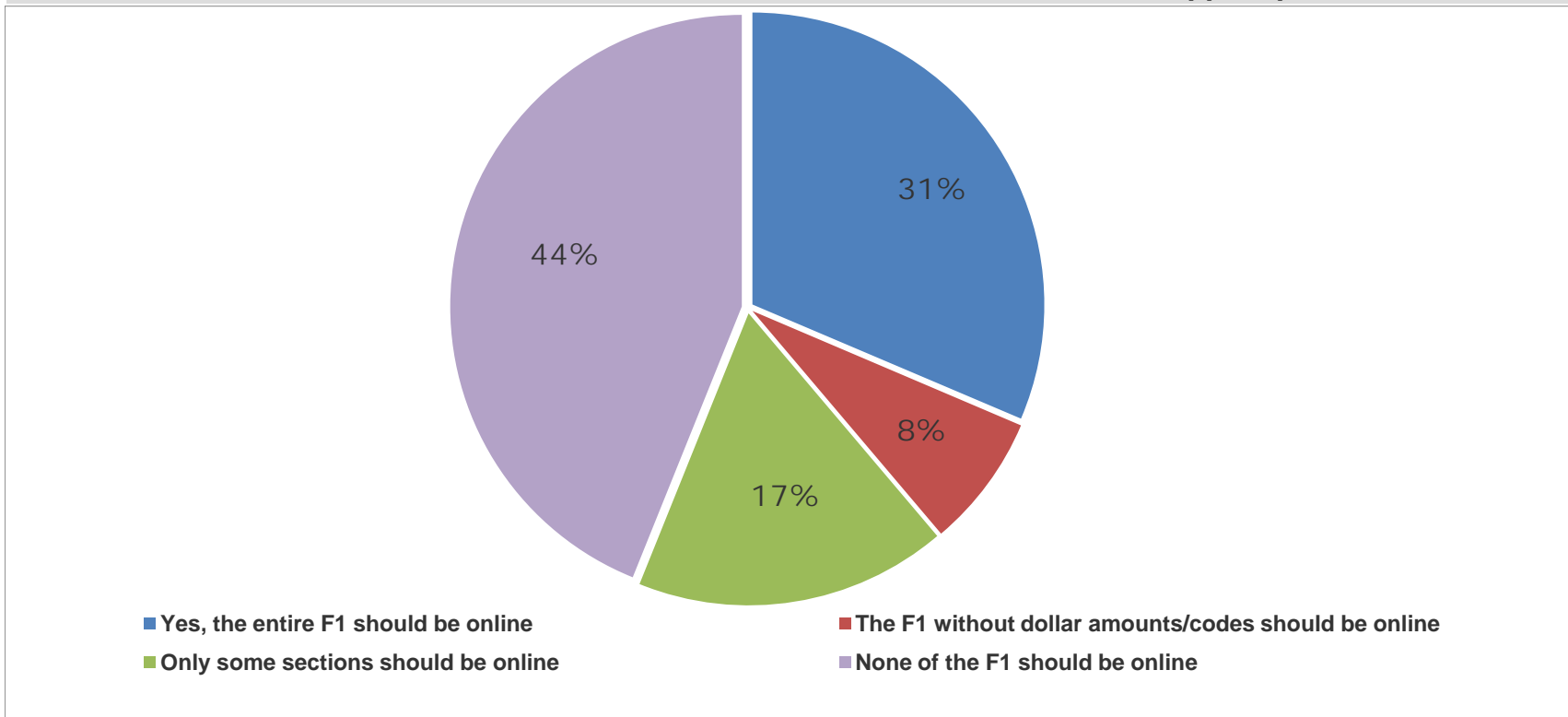
If the Commission believes it has the information it needs to make decisions regarding any of the issues associated with items 3.5-3.7, staff will prepare next steps based on those decisions. For those issues requiring further information, once staff is able to produce the additional resources, they will be scheduled for consideration at a future meeting.

Attachment: Complete survey results, including questions & answers and comments

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
 April 16, 2014

Should the public have online access to F1 reports?

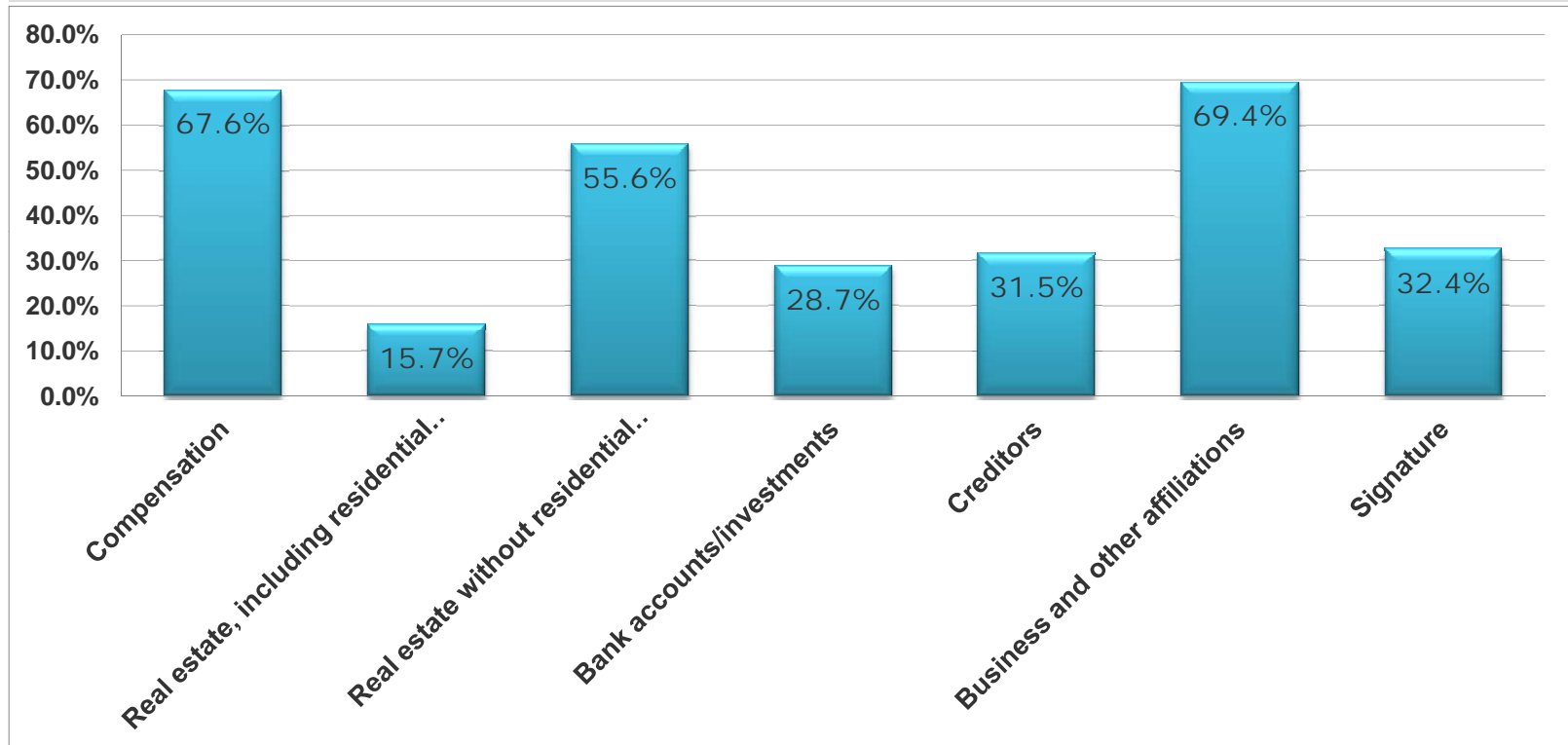
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, the entire F1 should be online	31.4%	161
The F1 without dollar amounts/codes should be online	7.4%	38
Only some sections should be online	17.3%	89
None of the F1 should be online	43.9%	225
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		7



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
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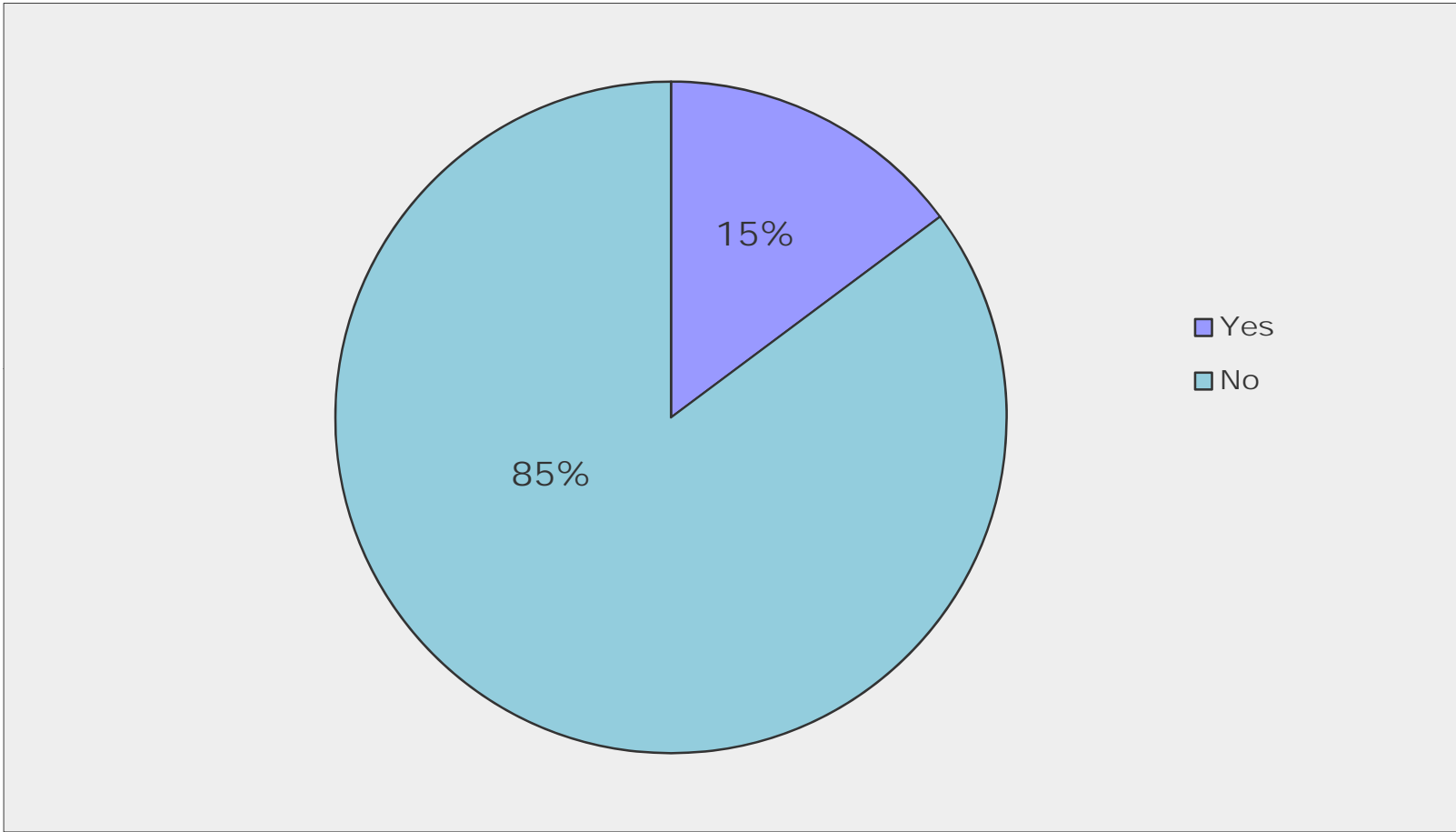
If you selected "Only some sections should be online" above - (Please select all that apply). If not, please click the "NEXT" button below to proceed.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Compensation	67.6%	73
Real estate, including residential address	15.7%	17
Real estate without residential address	55.6%	60
Bank accounts/investments	28.7%	31
Creditors	31.5%	34
Business and other affiliations	69.4%	75
Signature	32.4%	35
answered question		108
skipped question		412



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
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Have you, or anyone on your behalf, ever requested a copy of someone's F1?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	14.8%	76
No	85.2%	438
<i>answered question</i>		514
<i>skipped question</i>		6

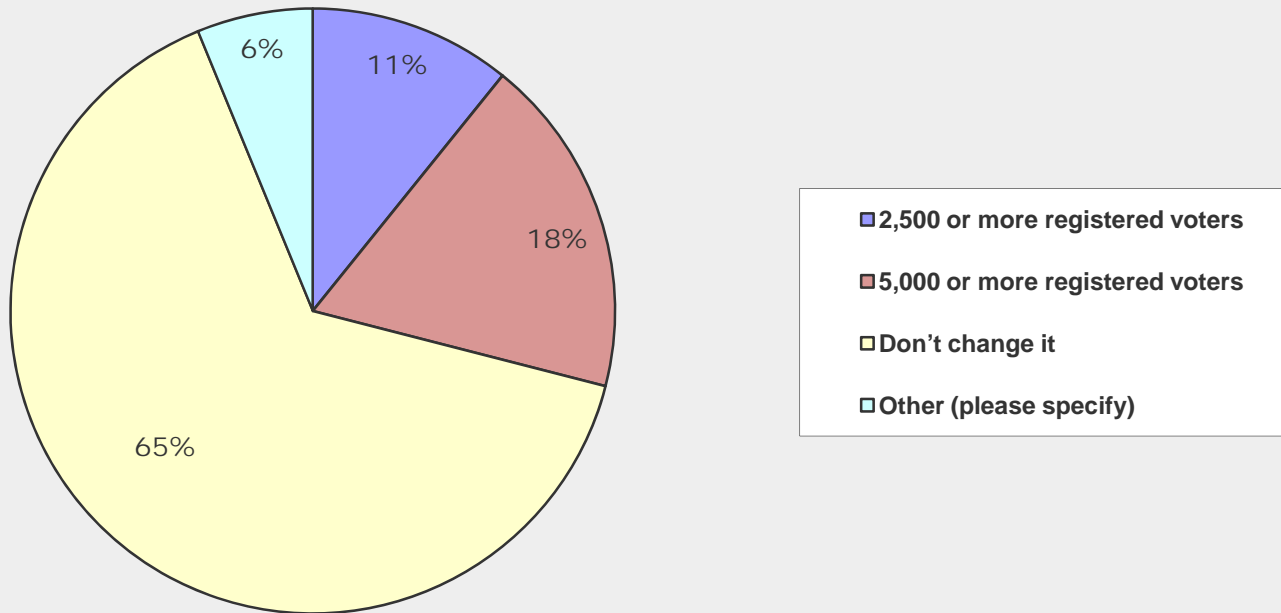


Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
 April 16, 2014

Should the elected officials' F1 filing trigger be changed from 1,000 or more registered voters to:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2,500 or more registered voters	10.8%	52
5,000 or more registered voters	18.2%	88
Don't change it	64.8%	313
Other (please specify)	6.2%	30
<i>answered question</i>		483
<i>skipped question</i>		37

Should the elected officials' F1 filing trigger be changed from 1,000 or more registered voters to:



Responses to: Other (please specify)

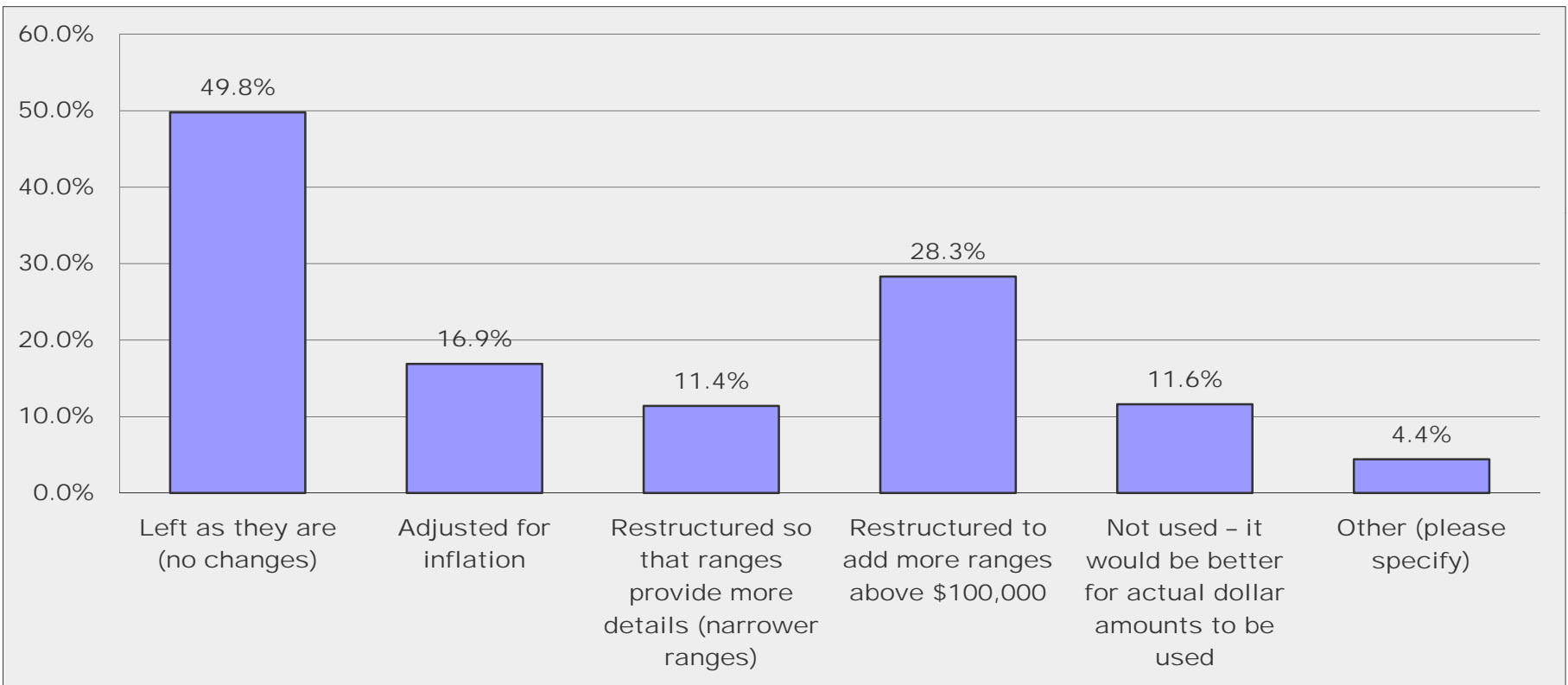
**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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- > eliminate it
- > 50,000 or more registered voters
- > Don't have opinion
- > No Opinion
- > Shouldn't matter the number of voters
- > 20,000
- > Not sure
- > not sure
- > 10,000
- > should include appointed municipal officials, like planning commissioners
- > Mine is less than 1000 registered voters, but still you want it??? also, your password retrival doesn't work
- > Only required by paid elected officials. As a School Board Director...makes little sense!
- > It is my opinion that F1 filing should not be required for locally elected offices regardless of the number of registered voters.
- > No thoughts either way.
- > zero - everyone should apply
- > All persons, no exceptions. Level playing field.
- > budget of entity they serve- some electeds serve small districts for nominal compensation- \$500,000.00 or more
- > agency budget over \$500,000
- > I'm not informed enough to comment
- > any number of registered voters
- > No opinion
- > Need F1-A (a "short form" version, for offices with voters < 1000)
- > Offices with a salary within 10% of a State Representative.
- > ALL
- > 1500 (maximum size of precinct)
- > 15,000
- > Do a simplified F1 for jurisdictions with under 5,000 voters, not requiring listing of all accounts, and only listing properties within the jurisdiction.
- > I'm not sure what the trigger is for.
- > It should be ALL elected officials. The "trigger" should be "1".
- > all elected officials regardless of how many registered voters

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
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Dollar amounts are currently reported using letter codes A through E, with each letter representing a defined dollar range (e.g., Code A = \$0 to \$3,999, Code B = \$4,000 to \$19,999, etc. to Code E = \$100,000 or more). These dollar codes should be: (Select ALL that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Left as they are (no changes)	49.8%	248
Adjusted for inflation	16.9%	84
Restructured so that ranges provide more details (narrower ranges)	11.4%	57
Restructured to add more ranges above \$100,000	28.3%	141
Not used – it would be better for actual dollar amounts to be used	11.6%	58
Other (please specify)	4.4%	22
answered question		498
skipped question		22



**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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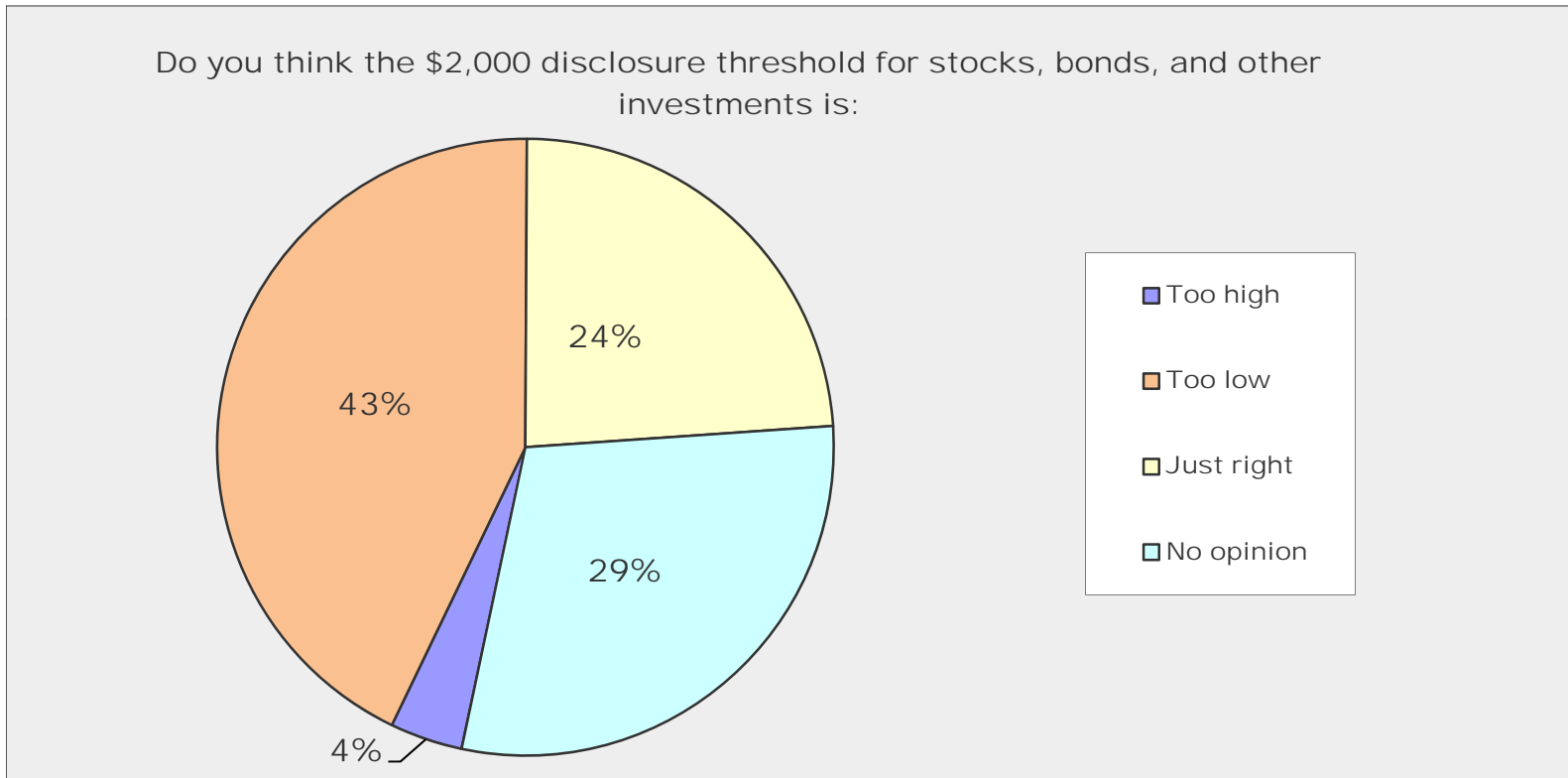
Responses to: Other (please specify)

- > Voluntary, as financial reporting should be altogether.
- > Consider modification of real estate categories.
- > Should be removed entirely. Is overly intrusive and an invasion of privacy.
- > Property value ranges should be increased above \$100,000 since the assessments depend a lot on where you live.
- > Exact amounts
- > At the very least, disclosures should provide MUCH more detail for ranges over \$100k. Should have ranges into the \$5 million, \$10 million or \$20 million or more range. Otherwise, rich people get more privacy than those of modest means.
- > Leave ranges below \$100,000 the same but include more ranges above \$100,000, say up to 100,000,000 and above as
- > Many F-1 reports do not report the individual mutual funds held, or the individual stocks held. This should be enforced. Just knowing you have "Fidelity" with "E" is not much information on whether you are invested in oil, timber, or real estate interests.
- > restructured so that the ranges provide broader ranges
- > The lower codes could be widened (for inflation). For example, lowest should be up to \$5k, then up to \$10K, then up to \$25K, etc.
- > No thoughts - would need to understand the rationale for existing structure.
- > two ranges: 0-100,000 and 100,000 or more
- > Ranges below \$100,000 could be expanded adding fewer ranges below and more above \$100k
- > Not sure; no opinion
- > not used, it's not anybody's business.
- > Not used is first choice but if ranges are kept they must be increased to give more details
- > No value added, the property, asset or income data is sufficient to show any conflicts.
- > More detail is needed, as are ranges above \$100,000. Keeping ranges, however, is good. It greatly simplifies filing and allows for F1A to be filed with little additional effort in subsequent years when the changes are still within the range. If PDC requires specific dollar amount, then every official has to refile completely every year.
- > The Washington Constitution protects people's private affairs so bank information should be protected from any disclosure.
- > As professional staff, I would likely leave my job if I was legally required to disclose specific dollar amounts and details regarding my personal finances.
- > Fewer < \$100k categories and more >\$100k categories
- > move all ranges up significantly and be kept confidential for audit purposes only unless court rules for disclosure (citizen action to request disclosure with cause)

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Do you think the \$2,000 disclosure threshold for stocks, bonds, and other investments is:

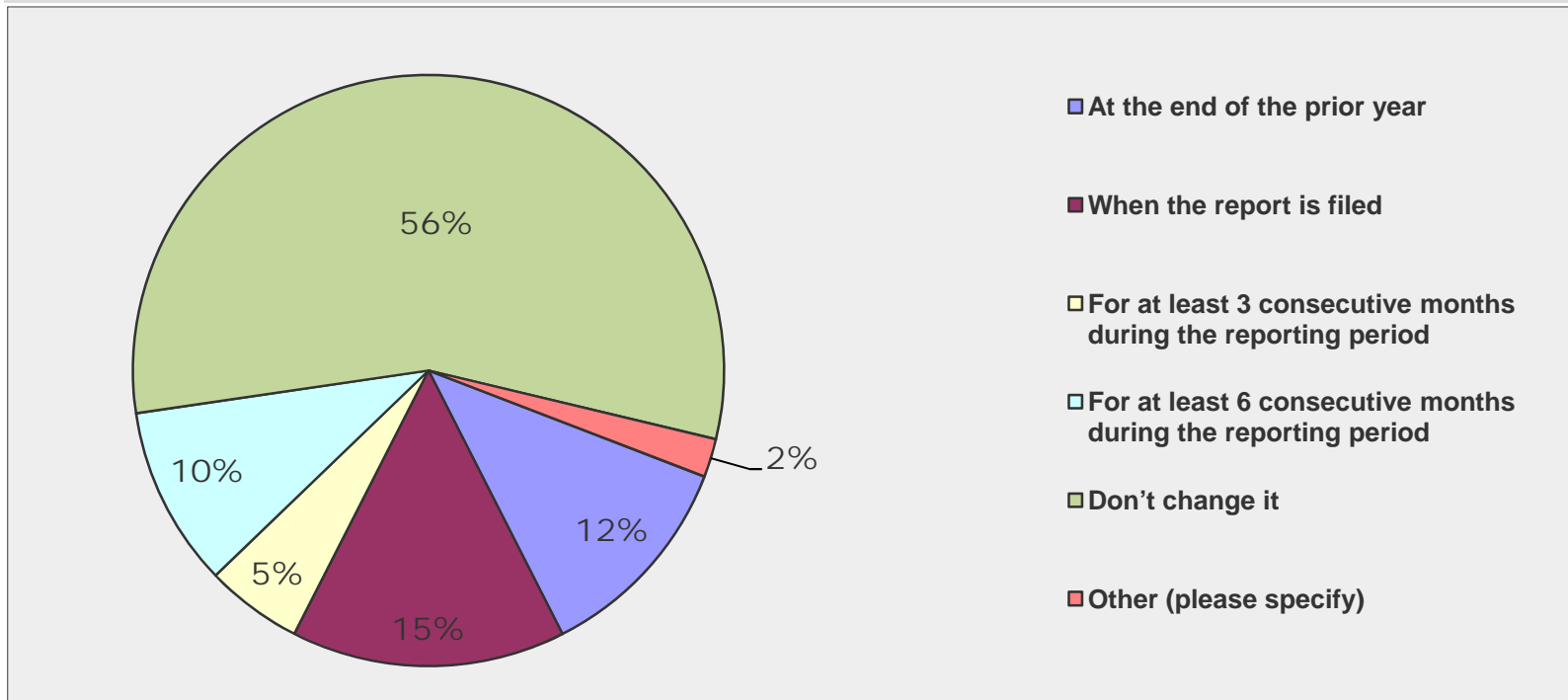
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too high	3.8%	19
Too low	42.9%	213
Just right	23.8%	118
No opinion	29.4%	146
answered question		496
skipped question		24



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Currently, investments owned during any part of the reporting period must be disclosed, regardless of the length of time owned. Should this requirement be changed so that investments are disclosed only if owned:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
At the end of the prior year	11.7%	57
When the report is filed	15.0%	73
For at least 3 consecutive months during the reporting period	5.3%	26
For at least 6 consecutive months during the reporting period	9.9%	48
Don't change it	56.1%	273
Other (please specify)	2.1%	10
answered question		487
skipped question		33



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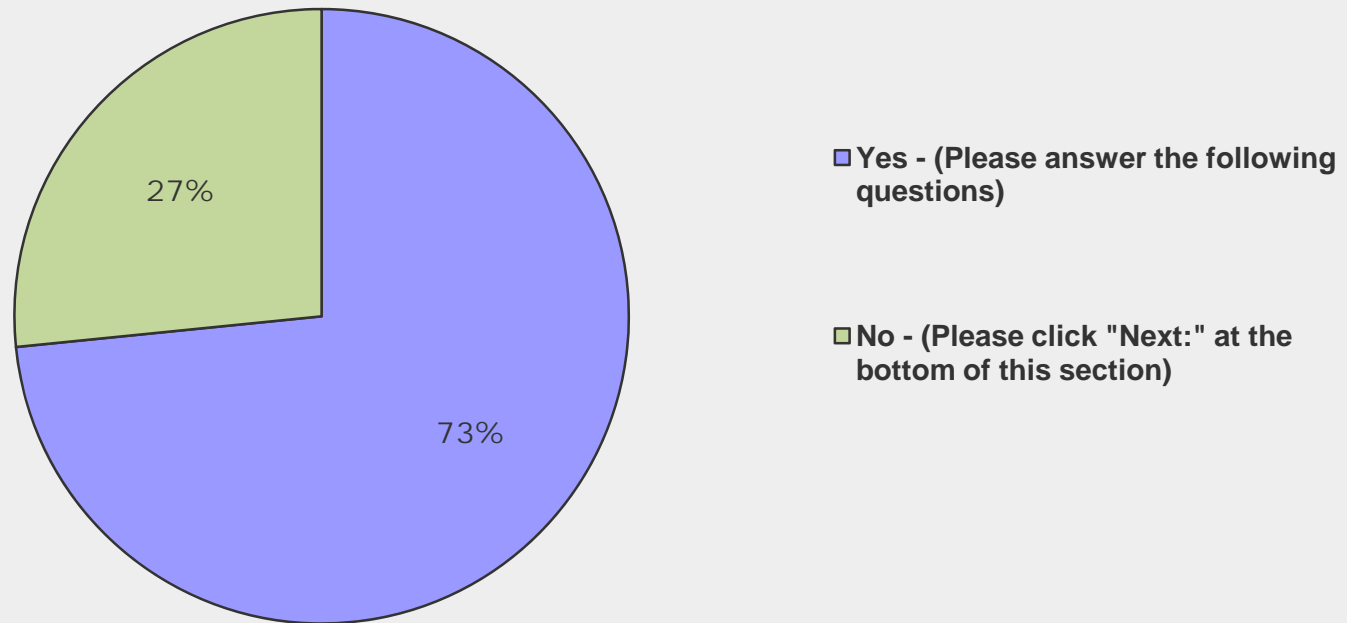
Responses to: Other (please specify)

- > Voluntary.
- > Should only disclose in period following session for investments if held company testified on bill worked on.
- > It undermines the purpose of the reporting if investments can be liquidated prior to filing of the report
- > Don't change it. It is tempting from a filer perspective to say don't make me file for every little stock I buy or
- > Again, how is the current information used? I can't recommend improvement without that understanding.
- > At any time from one year before filing period for office opens
- > Full Disclosure of any investment that is given to or purchased by a candidate or public official, as well as, any investment that is sold or transferred to another party.
- > Phrase as 6 months, or at the end of the reporting year.
- > No opinion.
- > What does statute authorize? If it's not in statute then don't require it.

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April 16, 2014

Are you currently an F1 filer?

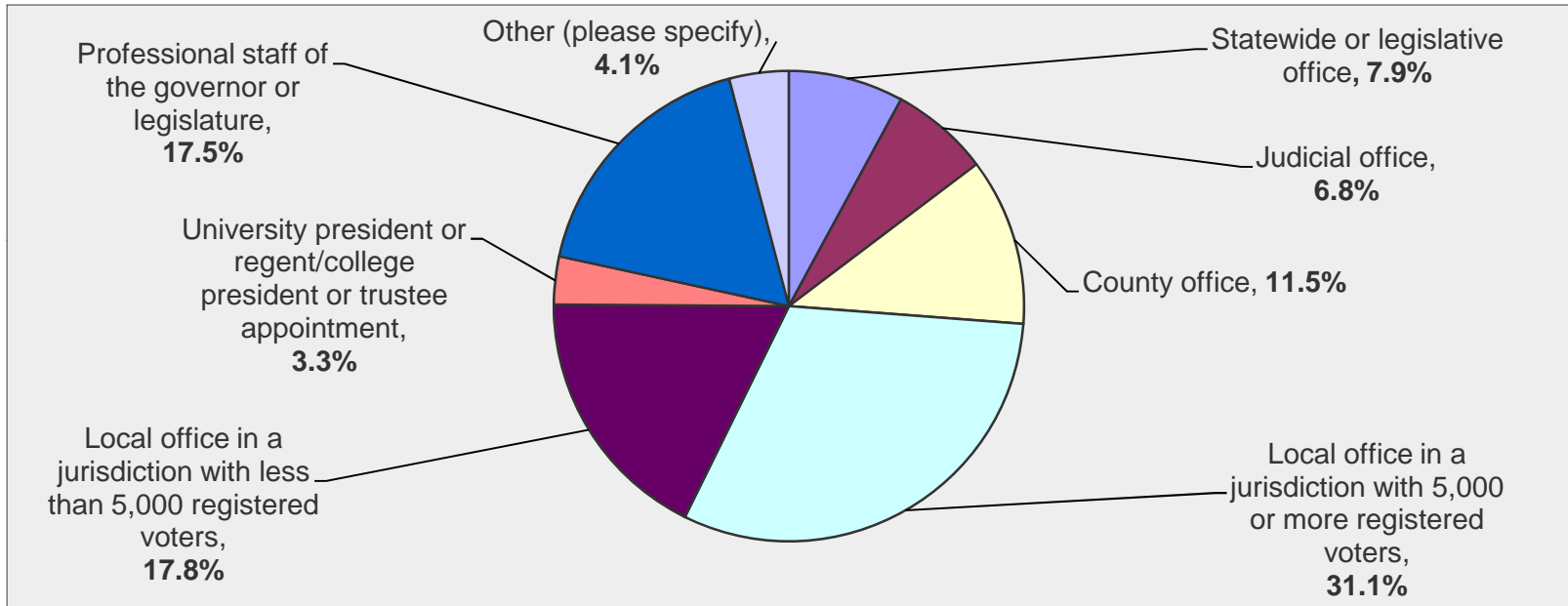
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - (Please answer the following questions)	73.4%	361
No - (Please click "Next:" at the bottom of this section)	26.6%	131
answered question		492
skipped question		28



**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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F1 FILERS ONLY – I filed because I am running for or hold a:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Statewide or legislative office	7.9%	29
Judicial office	6.8%	25
County office	11.5%	42
Local office in a jurisdiction with 5,000 or more registered voters	31.1%	114
Local office in a jurisdiction with less than 5,000 registered voters	17.8%	65
University president or regent/college president or trustee appointment	3.3%	12
Professional staff of the governor or legislature	17.5%	64
Other (please specify)	4.1%	15
answered question		366
skipped question		154



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
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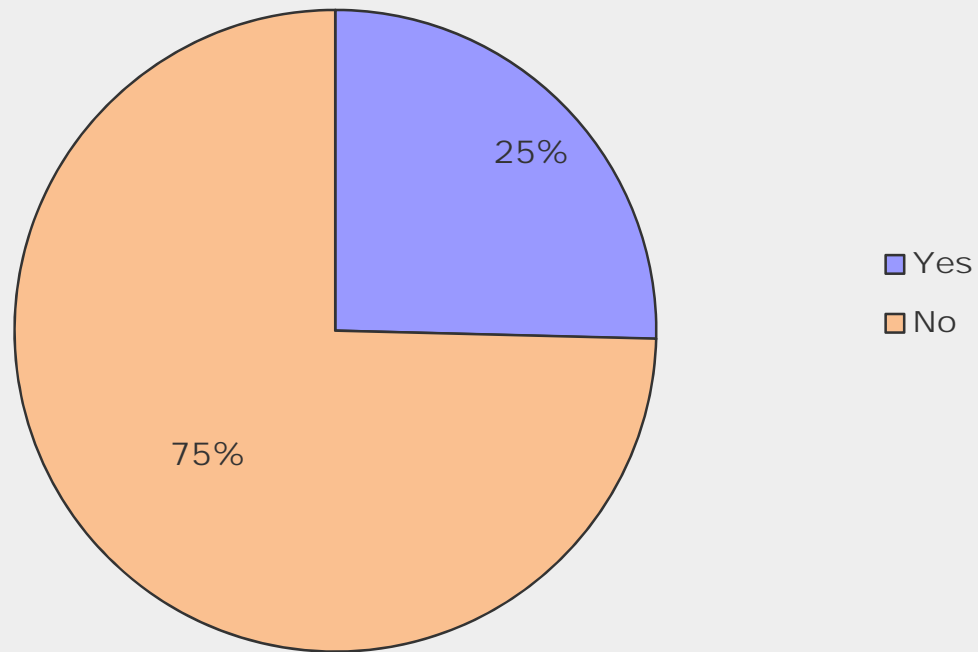
Responses to: Other (please specify)

- > Forest Practices Board Member
- > school board member
- > Former filer; no longer in public office
- > School Board Director
- > School board director
- > Local office - unsure of the number of registered voters
- > Appointed board member
- > Our agency is concerned about perception; I believe our F1 should only be reviewed internally as we do not fit any of the categories listed above
- > Appointed by Gov to a state Commission.
- > Governor appointed commission member
- > appointed member of a board
- > Governor Appointee - Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- > Work for the WS Investment Board
- > community college board
- > appointed

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
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F1 FILERS ONLY – Would online access to your F1 cause you to seek a reporting modification that you don't currently have?

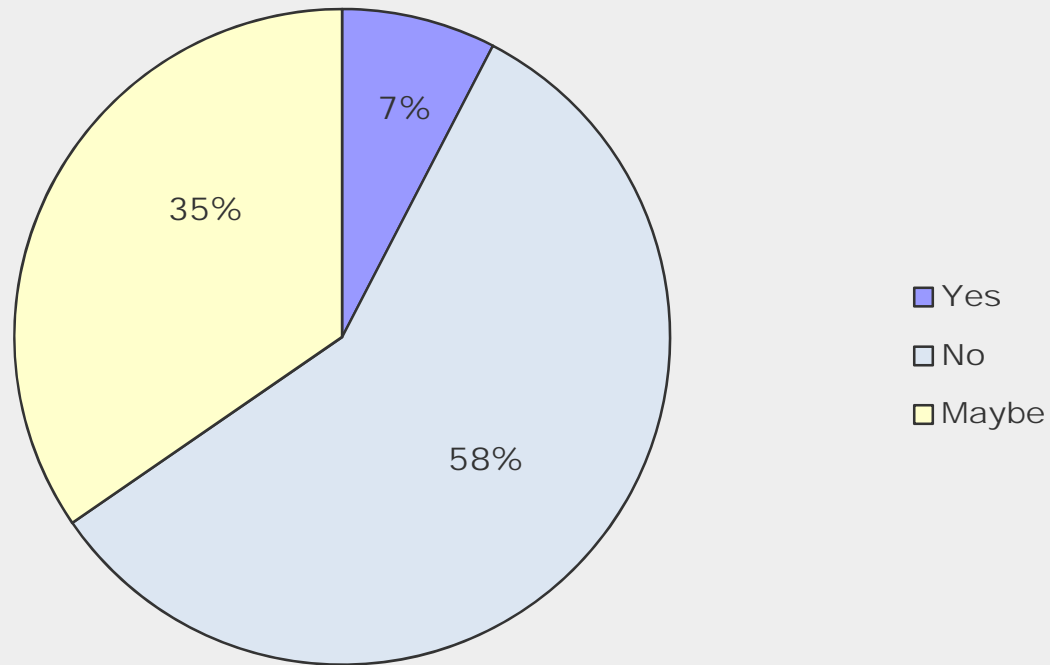
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	25.4%	89
No	74.6%	262
answered question		351
skipped question		169



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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F1 FILERS ONLY – Would online access to your F1 report cause you to leave office or not run for re-election?

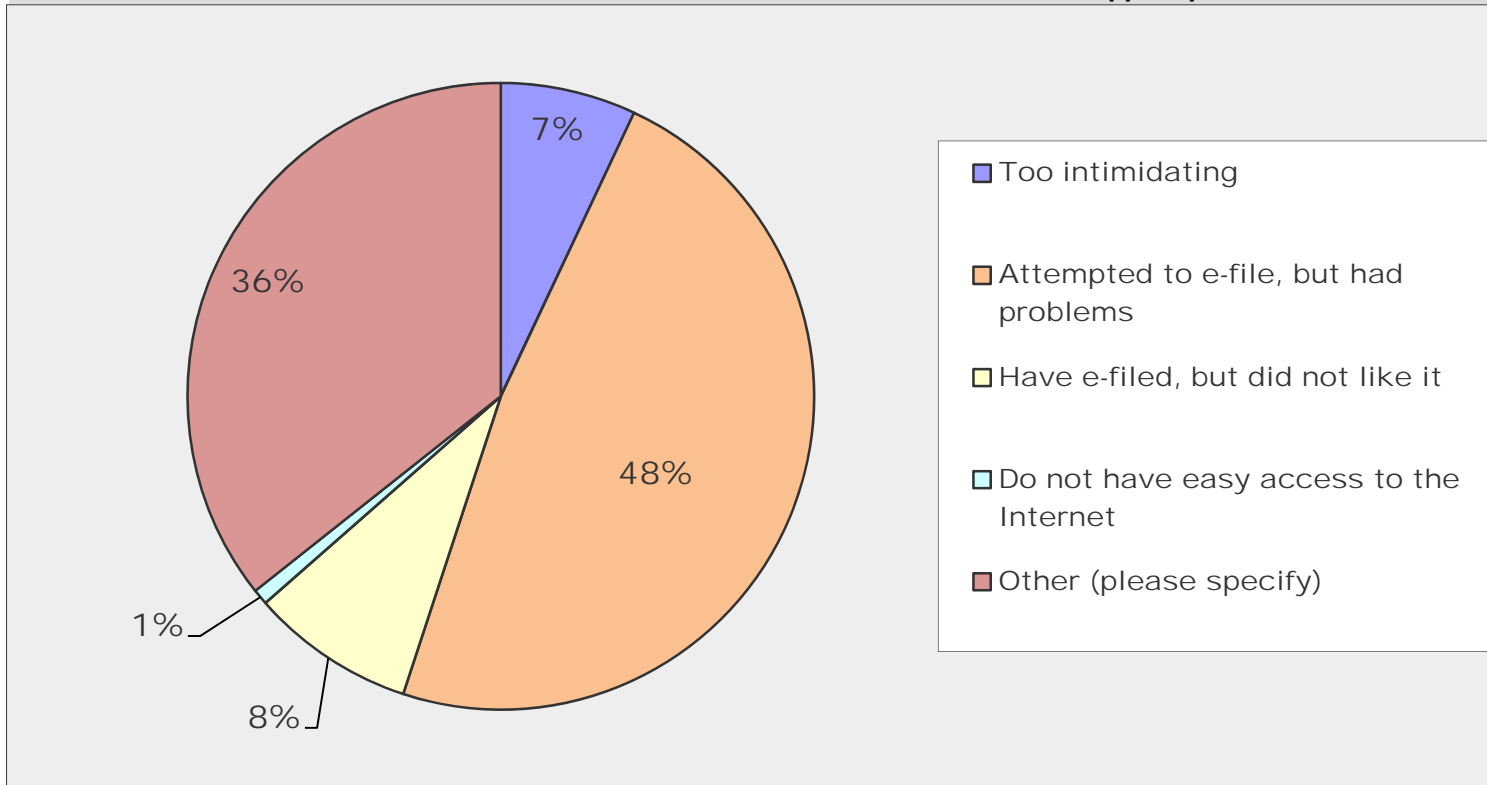
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	7.6%	27
No	57.8%	204
Maybe	34.6%	122
answered question		353
skipped question		167



Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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F1 FILERS ONLY – If you do not file the F1 electronically, tell us why:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too intimidating	7.0%	9
Attempted to e-file, but had problems	48.1%	62
Have e-filed, but did not like it	8.5%	11
Do not have easy access to the Internet	0.8%	1
Other (please specify)	35.7%	46
answered question		129
skipped question		391



**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
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Responses to: Other (please specify)

- > sometimes do, sometimes don't, whatever seems more efficient at the moment
- > don't want info available to hackers
- > Concerned about technology issues, including process, efficiency, access, and security. Rumors are that the system is not up to current acceptable professional standards.
- > N/A
- > I would if I had the link.
- > Optional, and my finances are my own business.
- > Does not accommodate number of investments--have filed electronically, but generally have to mail or fax additional material. Also, re: online access to the F-1, I would not mind having everything listed online except for the amounts of investments, bank accounts, value of property, etc. The actual investment types, companies, properties, etc. to me is the most important to have transparency regarding.
- > Would like to be able to easily access my old F-1 for ease of reviewing and updating
- > Prefer to submit information in person.
- > I have used both
- > Such a personal, private document should be safeguarded as much as possible. Therefore, I hesitate to file electronically knowing how information is able to be hacked and compromised.
- > was advised that e-filing has too many difficulties
- > the internet is untrustworthy
- > Clearer requirements. I like the e-file.
- > prefer US mail
- > More convenient to file on paper.
- > Had technical trouble. Also, am concerned about data security issues.
- > Mail hard copy; too much computer hacking....
- > Surprisingly easy
- > I file electronically and think it's great.
- > I e-file and like it. Simple and straightforward.
- > Paper filing makes it slightly more cumbersome for the general public to access my spouse's financial information. She does not hold office and has not consented to F1 filing requirements; it is ironic that PDC in Washington State treats spouses as chattel property.
- > Site doesn't let me retrieve password, fix it please 4/15 is almost here
- > Concerned about IT security (data breach) and malicious use of personal/private information.
- > Filling it out on paper works fine for me.
- > Don't want to make it easy for people to read my personal information.
- > preference

QUESTION #12

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses to: Other (please specify) - Continued

- > Had problems the first time, would be extra work to go back and do it now. Easier to modify document I have in file in my computer.
- > I prefer to prepare the report by hand
- > form said that signature was required - I know you have it on file!
- > I do file electronically.
- > PDC website won't accept my password
- > Need to have verification that e-filing reached office as I'm having difficulty
- > easier to print out and do reporting with hard copies of financial info
- > None of the above.
- > I prefer the paper option.
- > Prefer to handwrite it out
- > I did not see the option of providing the shortened form when there have been no changes since last year.
- > judges have litigants harrassing them. I have one mentally ill but internet savvy litigant from 1994 threatening to kill me, and another
- > identify compromise
- > I do file electronically, but your system blows
- > personal choice
- > did not know about it and is it available for ammendments??
- > My F1 is complex and prefer to prepare offline
- > prefer doing it by hand
- > prefer not to submit personal data with internet

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
 Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

	Response Count
	154
<i>answered question</i>	154
<i>skipped question</i>	366

Responses

- > The f1 supplement is confusing and time consuming to put together, for filers and for non profit organizations alike.
- > I have a day job where I work with some possibly dangerous and mentally ill people. I therefore don't like the idea of my home address posted online. I shouldn't have to sacrifice safety in order to serve the public.
- > The School Board Director position in Toutle lake district #130 is a volunteer, unpaid position. I don't see what my family's income has anything to do with Public Disclosure involving the School District. If someone is interested in how much I make, it is available thru my employer.
- > Do not believe executive branch staff or legislative staff should be subject to this requirement. Should be appointed and elected "officials" with significant responsibilities ("significant" could be defined by PDC rule).
- > Thank you for all the great service & help the team at the PDC provides
- > None
- > As you make your decision, please keep in mind that not all F-1 filers are elected officials. If you decide to make F-1s available online, I hope you will consider keeping staff F-1s off the internet.
- > A distinction should be made between filers who have chosen to stand for public office (allow for more personal scrutiny) vs. those of us who are career professionals.
- > Not sure why, but half the time it won't accept information and have to keep reentering the information. Sometimes I have to come back to enter new information.
- > Simply what I just stated with the previous comment, that I would be fine with naming investments, property, etc., online, but not including online the dollar value (even the range).
- > If you want staff F1's to be made public, then make it anonymous. The public can know that staff are making certain investments, but not every detail about us. We do not seek the public light, yet we file these reports, but don't make them public in an individually identifiable way. I have nothing to hide, but I'd just like my privacy.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses - Contiued

- > This process may be drifting away from the original intent and now becoming an obstacle for some wishing to run for office.
- > Thanks for keeping Washington safe from corruption!
- > I have serious concerns about the level of detail that would be available, like names of entities that I owe debt and the amount. This reporting and potential publication also this impacts my spouse as well, since we are one household, and it is ownerous to have this personal information that impacts him, as well as myself, be searchable online. I do not know of other circumstances where I am required to report all this information to one entity. I am concerned about the security of the information that I report already. Making the report public via the internet only heightens my concern, namely with the detail of information that is required to be reported. I am a public employee, a professional staff, not an elected official. This would not make the distinction between elected officials and a subset of public employees - the ones required to fill out the PDF form. Professional staff should not have their information disclosed online.
- > I am concerned about certain information on the form facilitating fraud or theft. While that is of some concern in a paper only system, there are groups that spend a great deal of energy mining the internet for identity related information. The concern is much greater when it searchable via the internet.

While everything on the forms should be available to PDC staff (and most readily available to the public) I would suggest the following:

- a) Signature is redacted but a statement is added for public view that the document was signed.
- b) Residential address redacted but the street and block could still be included (i.e., 21XX of Main St)
- c) Names of any children under the age of 18 should be redacted (it would show up as Child A, age 15)

It seems like these changes are a good balance between disclosure and concerns from (at least this) filer. As a filer I would love to have the names of financial institutions redacted as well but felt that would serious impair the discloure aspect. Things like names of children, exact address of primary residences, and redacting an actual signature seem like reasonable trades.

- > on line system outstanding. thank you
- > There a number of people who choose not to run for office because of all that is required to be reported on an F1. If they are readily available to anyone online, I believe that number will increase!
- > F1s for professional staff should only be available as a public records request. Personal address and phone # information should not be made available at all
- > I think professional staff should not be required to report.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
April 16, 2014**

Responses - Contiued

- > As professional staff, I am required to report for both myself and my spouse. While online public accessibility to F1s may be appropriate for elected officials, for staff (and our spouses!) this seems like too much. Our salaries are already public, along with every reimbursement we claim. It's hard enough to find good staff to work in the legislature already - this would be one more disincentive.

- > The current PDC process makes a serious mistake by lumping professional staff in with elected officials. This survey does the same thing, and it makes the results less than useful. I think, and I believe I'm in the majority, that candidates and elected officials should have one set of reporting and transparency rules to comply with, and staff -- who are essentially just employees working for a living -- should have another, one that provides a maximum of privacy. My salary is already online, along with my name. I accept that. I work for the taxpayers, and they have a right to know that basic fact. But that's all. My F1 contains identifying information about my family and my personal life that no one needs to know. I'm not asking the public to trust me to make laws. I'm not asking the public to vote for me, as opposed to someone else. If I were, OK, gather my detailed information and make it available. Otherwise, no. This is especially important in today's highly fractured, emotional and dysfunctional political climate. There are significant numbers of people who just flat out hate government and government workers. I face risk every day simply by entering my office building. The public has nothing to gain by knowing my address, or where I do my banking, or how much money I owe on my car, and the people who would be seriously interested in knowing this private information are the very ones who should not have it. So to sum up, my recommendation would be to devise a new process that does not lump employees in with elected officials. It's never made sense to me, and putting my private information online makes even less sense. I strongly object, and the fact that someone decided this survey makes sense causes me to feel a sense of relief about my retirement being only a couple of years away.

- > The entire process is an invasion of privacy and if it must exist should be entirely retooled to require only disclosure that one generally has investments in an area where one is pursuing policy.

- > The prospect of posting staff F1s online holds serious privacy concerns for me - particularly in the age of data mining of electronic information. As staff, I have ZERO influence and my information should be kept out of the online environment and should be shared only if requested through a public disclosure form.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses - Contiued

- > As nonpartisan professional staff, I am make significant personal sacrifices in the name of public service. I work hundreds of hours of overtime. I am not a member of associations or organizations that I would otherwise be a part of in order to maintain my nonpartisan credibility. However, posting all of my financial information online is excessive and unnecessary. It asks to much of me and my family. Now my spouse's financial information would be accessible via an internet search? This might make sense for an elected official, but for a staffer who is has no stake in the outcome of legislation, this is asking too much. Perhaps part of the problem is classifying all of us as the same type of filers. If the trend is going to be toward more and more disclosure, then I think the PDC should consider reclassifying filers.
- > Staff should not be subject to filing requirements.
- > Employees of the state (i.e. staff) should be treated differently if this will be online. Employees are career state workers and not politicians. As such, even if the forms of those seeking office go online, career employees should be given more privacy and discretion.

- > Unlike those who seek elective office, professional staff of the legislature have not made a deliberate decision to put themselves and their families in the spotlight. Legislative staff do not vote on legislation. Our salaries are already public record. Public disclosure of personal financial information should be confined to those who seek or hold elected office.

- > Wish we could update our email addresses for log-in. This is an email address from about 10 years ago....I have to search every year for my log in information to fill out the F1. It takes an effort on my part to locate the information to be able to log in.

- > Tried to file F-1A online and could not get in. Password would not take and I was not able to reset.
- > No, Thank you for surveying.
- > Transparency is good.
- > I have struggled with exiling in the past; even spending a half day on the phone with the PDC staff but finally with the aid of a new computer was successful. Now again I have a confirmation and a message saying you have no record for the same report. I am beginning to think I should have stayed with paper.
- > I think financial information should not be online. It can always be requested. I think it is good to have a record of who has requested information. There is an accountability inherent in the current system.
Thank you.

- > no
- > Investments should be limited to actual interests in businesses - not stocks/bonds/mutual funds/bank accounts

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
April 16, 2014**

Responses - Contiued

- > No.
- > having previously had to file an F-1, they are not that onerous. If someone wants the public's trust they need to be transparent about their personal affairs and these should be posted like any other PDC report/form.

- > I have been an elected official 15 years. I access F-1 reports and Campaign Financial Reports one to several times during every local election. I am dismayed at the number of reports that are not filed on time or are incomplete.

It is common knowledge that the Washington State PDC does not have the man power to enforce compliance. This is most unfortunate since we are a State that "stresses open government and transparency."

Perhaps we need to go back to the drawing board -- starting with the State Legislature.

- > The more information the better. I did not know about the F1 reports but now that I do I would like to see them.

- > Need to better publicize this survey. I only heard about it through the paper. Every Wa st voter should be invited to participate
- > Takes too long to procecute disclosure violations.
- > None
- > voters need all the info that can be disclosed
- > I disclose business customer information on the F-1 so I prefer a person who wishes my information be required to request it versus easy accessibility to it online-mainly due to potential use of customer info. I would probably seek a modification of filing to eliminate or reduce customer names accessibility.
I did file electronically this year and last. First year was a bit cumbersome but this year it was great to just have to make changes.

- > Washington State is lagging behind in regards to Public Disclosure and our politicians. Please do what's right and evolve accordingly with the rest of the country - this is rather embarrassing.

- > We want to see where every penny comes from and goes out.
- > Since presently anyone can request as many F-1' as they want and get them via email, I don't see why they can't just be posted on-line. Perhaps deleting minor children.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses - Contiued

- > Just Do It! :-)
- > When the public reports the failure of a candidate to report ownership of property or business, the PDC should look into it without further sworn statements from the member of the public. YOU should check out tips instead of letting information languish.

- > Full disclosure is asking a lot of folks who decide to run for office, but that is the price they pay for choosing to try to become elected officials. If they don't want to make public a pretty specific list of their assets and liabilities, they shouldn't run for office. How else can we voters know if there might be conflict of interest unless we know that about our elected officials. Thanks for the opportunity to take this survey.
- > Certain information such as real estate and business holdings is important for the public interest. However, personal/family information and creditors should remain private. I would recommend that for information such as compensation from work outside public office, only those individuals making more than \$200,000/year be required to disclose the range and source. The public is typically concerned about the influence of wealthier individuals who hold office, not a middle-class wage earner.

- > I am currently having trouble accessing the system to electronically file my F1 form. The system does not recognize my password nor does it recognize my email address, even though Chip has sent email to me. ???

- > For small jurisdictions easy, on-line access to F1 filings becomes very personal. It should broad in scope so that quality candidates are not hindered to run.

- > As an elected official, I would appreciate not having to make public all my personal family information. I don't mind disclosing ranges and don't mind it as it is, but more public information would not be appreciated.

- > Biggest concern is being a judge and having my address out there to be accessed by anyone.
- > Why is F1 required for nonpaid position?
- > I strongly object to online access to F1 filings because legitimate inquiries are already getting access but online access would only increase ease and frequencies of inquiries made for the purpose of harassment and other illegitimate reasons. Public office holders already have enough safety concerns by virtue of holding office, why make it tougher to serve? Why increase the invasion of dependents' privacy by putting dependents' employment info on the web? I could go on and on. Please don't do it.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses - Contiued

> With the growing numbers of self appointed watchdogs that are not held accountable for their inaccurate or borderline slanderous comments towards elected officials; access to financial records with personal information and addresses of properties owned/partially owned, purchased etc. by office holders or candidates for office, is none of their business and does not serve any honest law abiding citizen any further insight into the candidate or the elected ability to serve their community. They, self appointed watchdogs of taxpayer monies, use this information to challenge/distorte electeds integrity, personal growth and to harrass neighbors and electeds.

These transparency policies are slowly eroding the civic fabric of our communities, to where citizens who really want to serve their communities will not run for elected office, because their detractors, watchdogs, are not required to be truthful and accountable for their statements!

- > Filing an F1 is a necessary responsibility of an elected official!
- > Easier access to information about public officials helps bring accountability to government.
- > Should be some way to update your username as email addresses change.
- > I am not interested in anyone other than PDC knowing my financial status. There should be some privacy when seeking/holding public office.

- > Increase the dollar categories real soon. Over or under a 100K, is what we have now. I would recommend every level in 200K increments. Than at 1,000,000 go to 500K levels.

- > I do not believe the F1 information should be made publicly available online to prevent casual inquiry that has no legitimate relation to the purpose of these forms. By making an individual submit a request for the F1 forms, there is a threshold established for intent and purpose in obtaining this information.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses - Contiued

> The e-filing system, while better than paper, needs some improvement. The interface is not as user friendly or intuitive as it could be. It looks and "feels" like 1990's technology. I understand the PDC is not well funded, but a sleeker and more modern online filing system may reduce errors, the need for amendments, etc. Overall, though, it is great to have an e-filing option.

I would prefer F-1 not be posted online. However, I think the public/media should be able to confirm whether a required filer has filed the F-1 and whether the F-1 was filed on time. Then, if the person wants to request a copy they can do so.

> More intrusion will discourage good candidates

> No.

> With concerns for personal safety and the theft of personal information a serious issue the more personal information you require me to make public and easily accessible means I will seriously consider not running for public office in the future. My family's personal safety is not worth the risk.

> I currently serve in a small town & dont even accept the stipened. If I do not accept any campaign contributions, or other compensation I dont see why the rest of my information should be online when I work very hard to keep personal information off the internet.

> I believe that access to personal information could present a problem for the filer especially in today's environment.

> For elected officials - I think that there should be a clear record of who is seeking our F-1's and we should be notified when somebody requests the form (we should get a copy of the info request - it would be easy to send an e-mail). I think it is only fair for us to know who knows this personal info. We do not check our rights when we run for office.

> My concerns are only for personal security. Especially from web/online spam, fraud and cyber crimes. If a person needs the information it is available via public request on hard copy.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
April 16, 2014**

Responses - Contiued

- > I would like to be able to see who is contributing to State and County Elected Officials because I see legislation that seems to be response to special interests that would only be there because of heavy contributions. But, I see the Public Disclosure requirements as being a significant barrier to getting the best qualified candidates to participate in the smaller County and City governments. Many excellent people I know have said they are not going to get involved with City government because they do not intend to expose their personal financial business to the world for litte of no personal gain.
It is a thankless job in many ways, and to also have to expose your financial status to the public so that you can be attacked by members of the public with an axe to grind is not very appealing.
Increasing the number of registered voters that would trigger a PDC Filing requirement would be a good thing.

- > When I filed my F-1 when I was appointed to the unexpired portion of an elective office two years ago, I requested many F-1s to guide my decision on how to comply. I found that even most of the members of the PDC, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State had concealed their individual stock and mutual fund holdings behind blanket "Fidelity" or "Vanguard" entries with "E". The PDC Executive Director filed correctly, fully disclosing individual holdings within each account. This is deceptive, and makes it impossible to know where officials' financial interest lies, one of the purpose of disclosure.

Oh: I ALSO hid my holdings behind a blanket account "E" entry, figuring that if I drew a complaint, I could demand that the AG and PDC members ALSO comply.

- > Fix the password retrieval function!!!
- > Internet access is too easy and subject to abuse. If someone is looking at your financial information, you should be notified, and told who is requesting it. Public disclosure should work both ways to avoid abuse.

- > As a spouse of someone who works in the legislature and as someone who also works around the legislature on behalf of my company, I am very opposed to making this information available online. My private information should not be readily available for those who disagree with stances my organization take in the legislature. I do not want my mortgage information readily available, etc. F1's online will punish those people who's information is only put in because of where their spouse has chosen to work. Please do not put my personal financial information online for those who disagree with me to use against me. If they want to access it, it is available at the PDC.

- > As stated previously...if your elected position does not have a salary or income attached to it, there should be no reason to disclose personal financial information on an F1 statement

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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- > I am very concerned about the electronic availability of F-1 information on the internet. The F-1 report requires employees and elected officials to report personal and private information that doesn't appear to have any nexus to potential conflict of interest issues (e.g, why does the public need to know where I have a checking account or mortgage?). This information, if accessed by a malicious party, could be misused and result in identify theft, fraud, and/or other serious complications for the reporter. If made available over the web, the information could be mass harvested to target public officials (fraud schemes, etc.).
- > The online system seems very convenient.
- > I do not think that it is necessary or appropriate to have the F-1 forms online because people can already make specific requests for copies of our F-1 forms. I understand that filing a F-1 is part of the process for being a public employee, however, I think that it is important for those of us who must disclose some of our most personal information that the requests for our information are documented, rather than anybody being able to check online without any paper trail of our information being accessed. I understand that a request produces the same result as the information being available online, but out of courtesy for public employees, I think it is best to maintain the current system that requires individuals to submit a formal request to access our most personal information.
- > As a staff person, my personal financial information should not be subject to electronic disclosure. It's different for an elected official, but a staff person should not have their info disclosed electronically. It's too easy for hackers and others to use the information for bad purposes.
- > My shoes do not fit everyone, but persons whose answers do not change from year to year, should be allowed to check "No Changes since last report"
- > It is my opinion that F1 filing should not be required for locally elected offices regardless of the number of registered voters.

**Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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Responses - Contiued

- > The whole F-1 process does make me feel like I have to share more about my personal financial affairs than I would normally do - I don't walk down the street or even talk to good friends about which stocks I have or how much I have invested in them - that feels like it is my business. But I "get it" that the public needs to be assured that I am not taking advantage of my elected position to personally profit. Having to provide the data so that it "was there" *IF* someone accused me of doing something inappropriate is a reminder and deterrent to all filers that they need to watch their p's and q's, and provides a path to research real issues. Making it all available on line scares me, though, because there are people who have nothing better to do than "mine" the data and potentially target me with marketing offers, or potentially find out data that makes identity theft more feasible. Yes, the full reports are available now by request, but putting them all on line would make it easier for someone to use computing tools to search for data or vulnerabilities more readily than could be done today. I also feel some protection now that if someone makes a request for my F1, the PDC knows who made the request in case there was a pattern of problems that came out of F1 report data being used. Once you go online with it, PDC will no longer know who asked for the data, so I feel more exposed. Bottom line, if you go online, data needs to be "sanitized" somehow to give me some reasonable expectation that my personal privacy will not be compromised, or it *WILL* cause me to forego public office. As a small city council member, I already give up a lot of personal privacy for a few hundred bucks a month - expose me to unwanted marketing efforts or identity theft, and it is not worth it.
- > Allow judges to not list addresses or descriptions for personal security reasons for all residence(s)
- > I understand these reports being reviewed by knowledgeable people to protect all of us in the state from inappropriate behavior (and hope they really are reviewed); and when people are elected they have an obligation to provide this information. I don't believe that as an employee my financial affairs are the business of the public (I was not elected) although my details should be reviewed by knowledgeable authority within my agency for internal control purposes.
- > Thanks for asking
- > The problem with the F-1 is that we only fill it out once a year. We forget how to fill it out because we use it so infrequently. I think you need a training video on the website.
- > Would like to be able to pull up my previous years' report and just make minor changes where needed. Guess my file copies are in storage & I am not able to use them this year.
- > I do understand the purpose for Public Disclosure, but I do not understand the utility of the data as collected by the F1 Survey. I almost think that a copy of my Federal tax returns would provide more useful information.

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F1) Survey Results
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- > Keep it as is. Finally over the years it has become easy to do. I like how we see the past report and then can edit and add. One thing is the email used for the 1st online filing can not be changed (or so I was told by a number of the staff - so I get an email to the existing one, but have to use an email I had ages ago to access my account. That should be allowed to be changed...now when I receive the confirmation, I also see it went to my old account. With the craziness of hackers, it does not make me feel comfortable. SO change it and let filers know they can.
- > Nope.
- > small districts lose very good potential candidates because of disclosure rules. These small districts do not pay much and some not at all yet the disclosure requirements are overly invasive of personal finances.
- > Discourages qualified people from seeking office due to the disclosure of confidential information, example: an attorney having to disclose his clients.
- > I don't believe the PDC is adequately funded by the Washington State Legislature and until it is, the agency should keep changes and work burden to a minimum.
- > It is very important to the integrity of the election process that candidates provide a lot of detail as to their personal financial holdings as well as campaign contributions. This information should be required to be kept current through that person's elected office career, not just at the point that he/she files as a candidate. It is equally important that this information be kept up to date and made available to everyone via the PDC web site.
- > PDC is severely understaffed. Seriuos complaints take too long to investigate and resolve.
- > All government information should be available to any citizen on the Internet. The more availability with the least hassle only makes government better and accountable which is missing especially in city government.
- > I think staff should be treated somewhat differently than electeds. Personally identifying details -- that could be used for identity theft or stalking -- should not be electronically available.
- > A few years ago I requested an opinion from the PDC on whether stock options held but not exercised must be reported. The written answer was No, because they are often not liquid assets, nor transferable, and don't have a determinable market value. I find that policy to be a loophole for inviting the withholding of financial interests from the public. Stock options are vested value that the public should know about to evaluate the financial interests of candidates. I propose that stock options of any kind, including promise of options in the future (for example, in the case of certain conditions sustaining, such as an IPO) should be explicitly added to the list of mandated disclosures, even if their cash value is zero or indeterminate.

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Responses - Contiued

- > I can't find a copy of the F-1 I filed last year; it would be great if I could look it up on line.
It also seems I wrote down the wrong email address or password last year so now that I have an evening to fill out the form I can't access the old one. It would be nice if there was a way to have that info accessible online during off hours.
- > Nope. More openness is better, these folks are doing the People's business
- > I filed F-1s for 35 years as a county and statewide official.
- > I filed 3 times and I personally think my own money should be filed not my husbands. Mainly because he had nothing to do with my running
- > Let's keep it transparent.
- > For small, local offices, it is very intimidating having that kind of info about me so easily available. I know from experience, many people won't run for office because of this. All info is available for investigations, but this amount of public access for no reason makes me uncomfortable.
- > All information that is disclosed in response to a public records request to the PDC should be posted on-line. This will save a lot of staff time because there will be no need to respond to such requests, other than to point people to the website.
- > It is important for the public, including the candidate's opponents, to be able to find out and understand the candidate's or officeholder's financial entanglements innocent or otherwise.
- > Congratulations to the PDC for working to make campaign finances more transparent!
- > Please, as an FOI, send a copy of this completed survey to donaldadenning@msn.com
- > More transparency is better. It's kind of like the Bellevue School District Superintendent Amalia Cudeiro who owned an education consulting company with her husband. How many more conflicts of interests do we need in public office?
- > Although I understand the desire for F-1 filers to retain their privacy, good government requires transparency.
- > You need easy FTP download access to bulk, raw PDC data. Look at what the FEC does.
- > Don't put it online - - - too much fraud risk in light of Seattle Archdiocese data breach.
- > Keep it simple. Financial reporting should only focus on potential conflicts of interest...other items do not matter.
- > All of this information should be online for the public to see, without making a formal request.
- > Public info is laudable. These forms should be simpler and more general to capture essence but not all the painful detail that does not disclose any additional meaningful information
- > If people really want that information, they have access to it by request.

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- > There are safety concerns about telling the public what properties I own. There are often threats against public officials, I don't need criminals knowing where I might be or where my family might be. Some things should remain private. No one should know who my creditors are. My honesty, integrity, and work ethic should tell enough without disclosing other info. As it is, it can be requested and produced, putting it online is unwarranted and unwelcome.
- > Please encourage people other than F1 filers to complete your questionnaire. Financial information about elected officials is vital for trust and accountability, including allowing the public and media to decide if conflicts exist. I would strongly encourage PDC to use narrower ranges and ranges over \$100,000 for income. However, reporting of actual income would then trigger every official having to file a completely revised F1A, instead of being able to check that there were no significant changes from prior year. Rep. Gerry Pollet
- > Posting these documents online may save the agency some money in terms of public records requests, but seeing as they contain information about us that is sensitive regarding our financial life, it should be kept behind at least that one layer of protection and not just available for anyone.
- > Financial Information needs to be protected by the government from data mining companies. The government has not done a good enough job of protecting personal information about individuals from the abuse by commercial and other sources. People in other countries would very much like to steal American identities, and with the bank and investment information on the forms the PDC is inviting the criminals to prey on filers. Please do not make it easier for the criminals and people overseas to access the information.

I would urge the commission to re-asses the F1 based on the legal standard of strict scrutiny for all the requirements on the form and the mechanisms by which the information is released. Can the government prove that each item of information requested furthers a compelling state interest and that those rules and policies are narrowly tailored to do that? Is it in line with current US and WA Constitutional legal interpretations? I would ask that the PDC seek out constitutional scholars on the issue and do a public hearing to inform the commissioners and the public, then consider redrafting the F1, removing some of the information requirements.

- > On the whole, the PDC is doing a difficult job well. Hold their feet to the fire!
- > Given rampant identity theft and the unsafe world we live in, I do not support posting the F-1 online. I don't live an extravagant lifestyle, but someone could read my F-1 online and easily decide I was a financial target. I think you should notify candidates when a request of their F-1 is made.

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Responses - Contiued

- > I can no longwr access the forms on line to print out.I had no trouble for 13 years but now someone has "improved" the system to where it no longer works.
- > The F-1 is one of the most overlooked reports filed. Every effort should be make to make them more visible and available.
- > The PDC provides a wonderful and informative service in a democracy..... Keep up the good work. Please don't water down the existing process and system. If anything please strengthen the disclosure system in Washington and let Washington lead us into the sunshine on public service.
- > no
- > Online access is not necessary - for those who actually have a reason to inquire, they can simply request the information from the PDC.

- > Good work and Good Luck
- > see my last comment.
- > I would like to be able to print for my records a copy of my F-1 report.
- > I am in a volunteer position and have no desire for the public to have unfiltered access to my personal data.
- > I believe having the F! on line will change its purpose to one of being a weapon used against elected officials. I also work very hard to keepmy personal information off of the internet and do not want the government making it availble for all uses both good and bad. I also do not want to be targeted by marketers as a revenue source due to my service to my community.

- > Identity Theft concerns the more info online/available makes theft of more likely
- > In the age of international travel it could be life threatening when traveling in 3rd world countries to allow access to ones financial situation to the public (especially to those members of the public even in this country whom pursue burglaries, kidnappings, etc)
- > Frankly, I don't mind providing the information, although I think the form is a bit clunky and difficult to use. Making the F-1 viewable by the general public has more downsides then value. I have been harassed by naysayers and having this information online just increases the likelihood of this happening more frequently.

- > I think that the PDC is a joke of an organization and it should not be required for positions where there is no compensation. No compensation, no conflict of interest.

- > Nope
- > I hope e filling has filters so some one could not steal my Identity.

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Responses - Contiued

- > I would put it online but do not see the need. Most who would take the time to browse one's financials are not interested in a study. They are seeking evidence!
- > Please protect our privacy. If folks want to get salaries, etc, they can order it. It doesn't help to have this information on the web for family members etc to see when they are not part of our constituency. Thank you for listening.
- > Privacy of citizen legislators should be balanced with need to disclose. Rules should be put in place to limit who can access and for what cause, absent a court order, to limit potential for snooping and harassment (and other illicit purposes).
- > It appears to me the F-1 is not appropriate for WS Investment board staff (at mid levels). If the goal is to monitor personal investments to watch for inappropriate trading (which is appropriate), then a confidential system that reports investment activity should be developed and monitored by an internal compliance group. A restricted list should be developed such that approval for new investments is granted based on potential conflicts with restricted list companies. Staff would need to report all investment activity to the compliance department, which can be done automatically by approved brokers. This is the type of system that is used in most investment organizations, not this unwieldy, unmonitored and self reported system.
- > Have a form, on the internet, that can be updated each year.
- > Thank you for taking this survey! \$100,000 shows voters so little any more about how much a person actually owns in stocks or their home. This will be a big change and a welcome one for transparency.
- > Thank you for all the work that the PDC does to ensure transparency in our state! It is appreciated!
- > Posting online details about where a person has their bank accounts, their mortgage, their car loan, and their IRA is nothing but a recipe for harassment and identity theft.
- > F1 filers should not have to list their home address. Listing the city of residence and \$value is sufficient. Public officials/judicial officials have security concerns that should be respected by not requiring the F1 filing of home addresses.
- > It's a pain in the ass to fill it out and then have to send you a physical copy. If i scan one i signed and fax it to you, that should be enough. or let us fill it out online for f1a or f1
- > I am a regular candidate for state legislature; unfortunately, I haven't won yet but I'll keep on trying. Regarding financial disclosure; I'm from Florida, down there it's called 'form 6' down there they ask everything and get very pointed with financial questions. While it's important to have public information I do worry about job related problems for legislative candidates...Asset disclosure yes but employment disclosure no...

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- > The information listed in the F1 is highly personal such as specific banks used and accounts held. This information is available readily to requesters but should not be on the open internet for potential fraudsters to access.
- > Results of this survey will never be statistically valid. Why don't you consider an approach that won't target just the online crowd.