



State of Washington  
**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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TO: Members, Public Disclosure Commission  
FROM: Nancy Krier, General Counsel  
Michael Smith, Chief Information Technology Officer  
DATE: October 16, 2013  
SUBJECT: Continued Discussion of IT Needs and Issues --- Social Media  
October 24, 2013 Commission Meeting

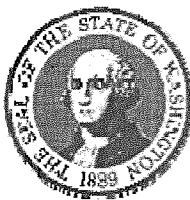
**Agenda Item**

At its October 24 meeting, the Commission is scheduled to continue its discussion concerning technology needs and issues. The Commission began its discussion at its August 22 retreat but did not have time to address the topic of social media as part of that discussion in August or September.

A copy of the August 15, 2013 memo on this subject is attached.

The documents referenced in that memo will be provided again for the meeting. Staff also anticipates the Commission will finish reviewing the PowerPoint presentation on the subject, specifically, the portion dealing with issues related to public agencies' use of social media to reach the public.

Enclosure: August 15, 2013 Memo



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TO: Members, Public Disclosure Commission  
FROM: Nancy Krier, General Counsel  
Michael Smith, Chief Information Technology Officer  
DATE: August 15, 2013  
SUBJECT: IT Needs and Issues – Discussion Item at August 22, 2013 Meeting  
(Retreat)

**Agenda Item**

On August 22, the Commission is scheduled to hold its annual retreat. The discussion is slated to include a review of technology needs and issues. Among other things, staff will present information about issues related to a public agency's use of social media to reach the public, and other recent IT and new media developments. Staff is preparing a PowerPoint presentation.

Meanwhile, for more background on recent technology developments in other jurisdictions, enclosed please find a memo from our summer law clerk. It provides examples of agencies comparable to the PDC that have created mobile applications ("apps") to assist filers (in filing or tracking reportable information) or assist the public (in accessing contributor or expenditure data).

Also attached are three articles/press releases describing three such apps in more detail.

Enclosures

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Nancy Krier, PDC General Counsel

**From:** Michael Woo, Law Clerk

**Re:** Agency Mobile Apps Survey

**Date:** August 9, 2013

**Attachments:**

Article – NYTimes.com: Elections to Be Easier for Voters With an App (New York City)

Webpage – California Fair Political Practices Commission: Gift Tracking App (California)

Press Release – Michigan Department of State: Michigan campaign finance records app now available for Android smartphones (Michigan)

Press Release (?) – Lee Enterprises: new app IDs elected officials

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There are 3 basic types of mobile applications (apps) that are issued by agencies similar to the PDC.

- 1) **Filer Assistance Apps (California, New York City):** This kind of app is used to assist in filing reports by streamlining the process into inputting the reportable data directly into the app, which then e-files with the agency.
- 2) **Public Information Apps (Michigan, Indiana):** This kind of app accesses publically available filer data, essentially a mobile version of an online finance database.
- 3) **Campaign Contribution Apps (New York City):** This app allows for a rapid processing of a donation similar to mobile apps for vendors, using a card reader attachment to read credit cards and process the necessary information to comply with finance law.

Of particular note is that the new NYC Votes App will have multiple functions, allowing for voter registration, donations, and campaign deadline notifications as known features.

**Other Relevant Technologies of Note:**

The New York Times, during the 2008 election, experimented with a Web API for use by third party developers to track campaign donations compiled by the NYTimes using FEC records.<sup>1</sup>

The Texas Ethics Commission allows for downloads of the entire state campaign finance database.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://developer.nytimes.com/app\\_fec](http://developer.nytimes.com/app_fec)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/dfs/search\\_CF.htm](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/dfs/search_CF.htm)