



## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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To: Members, Washington State Public Disclosure Commission  
From: Lori Anderson, Communications & Training Officer  
Date: February 20, 2014  
Re: 2014 Rule Making Agenda

Last month staff filed with the Code Reviser a semi-annual agenda for rules under development for the period January – June 2014. Upcoming rule making will likely involve:

### PROJECTS UNDER WAY

1. Mini Reporting Revisions. The Commission will consider amending its mini reporting rules to set out procedures to be followed when a candidate or political committee is no longer eligible for mini reporting and wants to continue receiving contributions or making campaign expenditures without first obtaining the Commission's approval to change reporting options. Draft proposed language will be presented at the February 27 meeting.
2. Converting Interpretative Statements to Rules. The Administrative Procedures Act encourages agencies to convert its long-standing interpretations to rules. Presently, the Commission has approximately 25 interpretive statements that are more than 10 years old which have not been converted into rule, superseded, or otherwise withdrawn. Beginning in February, staff will endeavor to present one or two proposals each month to the Commission until the project is complete.
3. Lobbying Disclosure. Over the last several months, the Commission has been discussing lobbying disclosure thresholds and reporting of lobbying expenses for entertainment, food, and beverages. The Commission, in January, expressed its interest in adjusting the thresholds and pursuing alternative disclosure requirements for receptions, but is waiting to see whether legislative changes are made before taking further action.
4. Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) Review. A work group consisting of filers and representatives from the associations serving local elected officials was assembled in December. The work group has met twice and reviewed the subjects identified in the Strategic Plan Goals 3.6 and 3.7. The work group recommended surveying filers, which will likely begin early to mid-March. A stakeholder meeting to seek input regarding online posting will be scheduled after the 2014 Legislature adjourns. Depending on the results of the work group recommendations, filer surveys, and stakeholder meeting, the Commission may elect to pursue rule making on this topic beginning later this year.

5. Form Updates. Last month the Commission approved expedited rule making to add the website to those rules where online access is not included. Additionally, last year when the staff approached the Commission with “housekeeping” amendments to the Summary Report (C-4) expenditure codes, the Commission asked staff to come back with proposed changes that would provide more detail about independent expenditures. Staff has begun preliminary work and expects to have proposals for the Commission to consider before the end of June.

## **NEW PROJECTS**

1. Informal Settlement Procedures Review. The Commission has expressed its interest in reviewing the agency’s current procedures regarding informal approaches to resolving complaints without the need for formal enforcement actions, as well as exploring additional options that might be appropriate to allow for more efficient resolution of cases. Staff plans to begin the review after an assistant director is hired since that position is expected to play a significant role in the Commission’s enforcement processes. In the meantime, ongoing work in developing the Compliance Reference Manual will help highlight issues and options where Commission guidance or rule making on this topic would be helpful or necessary.
2. Executive Director’s Duties. Revisions may result from the informal settlement procedures review.