

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2255 (Pellerin) – As Amended April 7, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a candidate-controlled committee to report additional expenditure information on its campaign statement under certain circumstances.

Specifically, if a candidate will not appear on the ballot at the next election and the candidate's candidate controlled committee makes expenditures to a single person exceeding \$20,000 in the aggregate during a reporting period, this bill requires the committee to report: (a) the full name and street address of the person to whom an expenditure was made, (b) the amount of each expenditure, (c) a description of the consideration for which each expenditure was made, and (d) if applicable, the relationship of the person or subvendor to the candidate or other individual with authority to approve campaign expenditures.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to update forms and informational materials and provide related education and enforcement.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

While candidates may begin fundraising well in advance of an election to ensure they have sufficient resources to communicate with voters, most campaign spending by candidates usually occurs during the weeks leading up to the election. Large campaign expenditures made outside the typical campaign window warrant closer scrutiny to ensure compliance with state law. AB 2255 requires additional detail about the purpose of large campaign expenditures made at times when a candidate is less likely to be engaged in significant campaign activity.

This bill is sponsored by the FPPC and supported by the League of Women Voters of California.

2) **Campaign Expenditure Reporting.** The reporting of campaign donations and spending allows enforcement agencies, including the FPPC and local prosecutors, to enforce contribution limits and other regulations, at times detecting instances of bribery, contribution laundering, and other violations. The PRA requires public disclosure of the name and street address of a campaign contributor who makes a contribution to a committee of \$100 or more

and of a recipient to whom an expenditure of \$100 or more is made, as well as the date, amount, and brief description of the expenditure.

FPPC regulations require the disclosure of additional information for certain types of expenditures, such as when a committee pays a person to provide favorable or unfavorable content about a candidate or ballot measure on an external website. This bill requires a candidate-controlled committee to report additional expenditure information, such as the relationship of the payee to the candidate, if the candidate will not appear on the ballot at the next election and the committee makes expenditures to a single person exceeding \$20,000 in the aggregate during a reporting period. According to the state's online campaign finance disclosure database, at least 30 candidate-controlled committees for elective state office have been formed for an election that is not in the next election cycle for that office (for example, an election in 2028 or later for the State Assembly).

Analysis Prepared by: Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081