

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2413 (Ransom) – As Amended April 8, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits a large-format public advertisement from being displayed at public expense if the advertisement includes a photograph of an elected officer affiliated with the agency purchasing the advertisement and the advertisement is prepared in coordination with the elected officer.

This bill defines a “large-format public advertisement” as a billboard, wrap on a bus or other public transportation vehicle, advertisement affixed to a bus stop or other public infrastructure, and other public advertisements 24 inches by 36 inches or more in size specified by Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regulation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor and absorbable costs to the FPPC to update informational materials and provide related education and enforcement.

**COMMENTS:**

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

California is a leader in providing strong protections to ensure fair elections that prohibit public dollars from being used for political advertising. Unfortunately, current law does not extend these protections to situations where publicly funded billboards prominently display elected officials’ images. AB 2413 would close this gap in current law by prohibiting public funds from being used to feature elected officials’ images on costly billboards.

This bill is supported by the FPPC.

2) **Communications at Public Expense.** The Political Reform Act has specific rules about sending mass mailings that feature public officials at public expense, which may otherwise be construed as promotional political advertising instead of informational communications. This bill creates a similar new restriction, prohibiting a large-format public advertisement, such as a billboard or bus wrap, from being displayed at public expense if the advertisement includes the picture of an elected officer affiliated with the displaying agency. The author cites two main examples that warrant the need for this bill: (a) a billboard campaign paid for by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which included large photos of

locally elected board members and physical and (b) digital billboards along freeways and thoroughfares around Sacramento that include a photograph of Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper.

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