
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 900 (McNerney) - Political Reform Act of 1974: top contributors: disclosures

Version: April 22, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: E. & C.A. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: SB 900 would change the disclosures required in campaign advertisements, as specified.

Fiscal Impact: The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) indicates that it would incur first-year costs of \$211,000, and \$204,000 annually thereafter, to implement the provisions of the bill (General Fund).

Background: AB 249 (Mullin, 2017), commonly known as the “Disclose Act,” significantly changed the content and format of disclosure statements required on campaign advertisements, in order to make the disclosures more prominent. AB 249 also established new requirements to determine which contributors must be listed on campaign advertisements. Several other bills subsequently have modified the content and format of the required disclosure statements. Notably, AB 2188 (Mullin, 2018) required online platforms that sell political ads to make specified information about those political ads available to the public and made various changes to the format for disclosures required on electronic media ads. AB 201 (Cervantes, 2019) required a text message that supports or opposes a candidate or ballot measure to disclose the name of the candidate or committee that paid for the text message and, in certain circumstances, the top contributors to the committee.

The Disclose Act’s approach was also extended to apply to initiative, referendum, and recall petitions with the passage of SB 47 (Allen, 2019). Specifically, SB 47 required that an official top funders disclosure be made either on the petition itself or on a separate sheet that identifies the name of the committee and any qualifying top contributors.

Most recently, SB 1360 (Umberg, 2022) changed the text and formatting of required disclosures on petitions, electronic media, and video campaign advertisements. It also required the disclosure of top contributors funding the advertisements on electronic media advertisements.

Proposed Law: This bill, among other things, would do the following:

- Allow the shortening of names of top contributors in required disclosure statements in advertisements, as specified.
- Mandate specified formatting changes to certain disclosures.
- Require disclosures on billboards and other printed advertisements that are larger than those designed to be individually distributed to (1) list the names of top contributors separated by bullet points or numbering, instead of commas, and

appear on one horizontal line, if possible, and (2) have each line of the disclosure take up at least the lesser of 5 percent of the width or the height of the billboard or other printed material.

- Shorten the disclosure on an advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure to read, “Not paid for by candidate” or “Not paid for by a candidate for this office,” as applicable.
- Require that mass mailings list the top five contributors, rather than the top three contributors as required for other campaign advertisements.

Related Legislation: AB 950 (Solache) of 2025 was nearly identical to this bill, and was held under submission on the Suspense File of this Committee.

Staff Comments: FPPC notes that it would require one new attorney position as a result of the current version of the bill. The Commission would be to determine if an abbreviation is acceptable in an advertisement via written advice; consequently, it anticipates receiving numerous advice requests. FPPC would also need to update educational materials and trainings to reflect the bill’s new requirements.

Any local government costs resulting from the mandate in this measure are not state-reimbursable because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

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