
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION
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Ethics Commission Amends Fast Track Audit Policy

Today, the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission unanimously approved an amended Fast Track Audit Policy to allow City and Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education candidates and their controlled committees to resolve some audit findings before the Ethics Commission commences enforcement proceedings.

Following the completion of their audits, candidates and committees who are eligible for the policy and who choose to take advantage of it must make a payment to the City's general fund for each finding. The payment and the agreement that resolves the findings are incorporated into the final audit reports, which are publicly available on the Ethics Commission's website.

The Ethics Commission recognized that most audit findings are the result of unintentional errors and that the Commission's enforcement resources should be focused on cases that involve intentional misconduct. Addressing audit findings at the audit stage also reduces the delay between the completion of audits and the resolution of enforcement cases. In amending the Fast Track Audit Policy, the Ethics Commission is promoting the faster resolution of audit findings, while still holding candidates and committees accountable for failing to comply with the law.

"Though the Commission is committed to the fullest possible enforcement of the laws in its jurisdiction, it recognizes that not all violations are created equal," said Neama Rahmani, the Ethics Commission's Director of Enforcement. "The updated policy gives the regulated community an opportunity to resolve some audit findings at an early phase, before the Commission brings the full weight of formal enforcement proceedings."

The Ethics Commission also unanimously acted today to repeal its Infractions Policy, which had treated certain violations as infractions for which no fine was assessed. More information about enforcement policies and decisions can be obtained through the Ethics Commission's website or by calling the Ethics Commission offices.

The City Ethics Commission was created by Los Angeles voters in 1990 to impartially administer and enforce the governmental ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying laws of the City of Los Angeles.