

## CHAPTER 8 – ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to comply with the campaign finance laws is subject to a variety of potential penalties.

### A. LATE FILING FEES

In addition to any other penalty that may be imposed, information and documents that are not timely filed are subject to late fees:

- Filings required by City law are subject to late fees of \$25 per day, up to \$500 per filing. Charter § 803(x).
- Filings required by state law are subject to late fees of \$10 per day, up to \$100 per filing. Cal. Gov't Code § 91013.

### B. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

The Ethics Commission is required to conduct investigations and enforce against violations of the campaign finance laws. Charter §§ 706, 803(u), (v). When the Ethics Commission determines that a violation has occurred, it may issue an order to do one or more of the following:

- Cease and desist from the violation.
- File required documents or information.
- Pay a monetary penalty of up to the greater of \$5,000 per violation or three times the amount that was improperly reported, contributed, spent, or received.

A person who aids or abets another person in a violation of a City campaign finance law is also subject to administrative enforcement. Charter § 706, 803(u).

### C. OTHER LIABILITY

A person who violates or aids and abets another in a violation of the City's campaign finance laws may also be held accountable through criminal misdemeanor charges and civil actions. Charter § 803(v).

### D. WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM

The Ethics Commission is required to maintain a whistleblower hotline for reports of possible violations of the law. Charter § 702(g). A complaint may be made anonymously, but it is helpful to include your contact information and as much relevant information as possible.

Whistleblower Program:  
(800) 824-4825  
[ethics.lacity.org/enforcement/#reportaviolation](https://ethics.lacity.org/enforcement/#reportaviolation)

The Ethics Commission cannot comment on the existence or nonexistence of a pending investigation. This is required by City law to protect the integrity of the investigation, protect the reputations of parties against whom complaints are filed, and prevent political manipulation of the complaint process. Charter § 706(a)(2); Los Angeles Administrative Code §§ 24.23(a)(4), 24.29(c).