



AGENDA ITEM 8A

MEETING: January 21, 2026
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Humboldt LAFCo
SUBJECT: **Form 700, Ethics, and Fiscal Training Requirements Reminder**
Staff will provide an overview of Form 700 filing obligations and ethics and fiscal training requirements and will make additional information available to Commissioners as needed.

BACKGROUND

The Political Reform Act (Government Code §§ 81000–91015) requires most state and local government officials to publicly disclose personal assets and income and to disqualify themselves from participating in governmental decisions that may affect their financial interests. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is the state agency responsible for administering the Act, issuing the Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), and interpreting its provisions.

In 2005, Assembly Bill 1234 (AB 1234) was enacted, requiring local agency officials to complete ethics training within one year of assuming office and every two years thereafter.

Effective January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 827 (SB 827, Chapter 661, Statutes of 2025) expands training requirements for local agency officials, including LAFCo Commissioners. These requirements are in addition to AB 1234 ethics training and Form 700 filing obligations.

DISCUSSION

Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interests:

Upon appointment or election to the Commission, Commissioners must file an Assuming Office Form 700. In addition, an Annual Form 700 covering the period from January 1 through December 31 must be filed each year.

- **Deadline:** Annual filings are due April 1
- **Filing Officer:** Commission Clerk
- **Access:** Forms are retained by LAFCo and made available to the public upon request
- **FPPC Website:** <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>

Ethics Training (AB 1234):

Commissioners are required to complete ethics training within one year of assuming office (six months for officials assuming office on or after January 1, 2026), and every two years thereafter.

- **The FPPC offers an online ethics training course at:**
<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/public-officials-and-employees-rules-/ethics-training.html>

The course takes approximately 2.5 hours, may be completed in multiple sessions, and includes short quizzes following each section. Upon completion, Commissioners must save and submit the completion certificate to the Commission Clerk.

New Training Requirements Effective January 1, 2026 — SB 827

SB 827 establishes additional requirements applicable to Commissioners beginning in 2026:

- **Accelerated Ethics Training Timeline:** Officials assuming office on or after January 1, 2026 must complete ethics training within six months of assuming office, and every two years thereafter.
- **Fiscal and Financial Training:** Commissioners must complete at least two hours of fiscal and financial training every two years, covering topics such as budgeting, financial reporting, fiscal oversight, revenues, and stewardship of public resources.

CSDA held an online fiscal training in early March 2026. They have indicated that this training will be uploaded as an on-demand webinar available to members in the near future. This resource will be accessible to Commissioners and will satisfy the fiscal training requirement under SB 827. Staff will provide additional information on this training once it is available.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Commissioner Form 700 and Training Requirements

Commissioner	Current Form 700	Ethics Training	Fiscal Training
Michelle Bushnell	Yes	Yes	
Steve Madrone	Yes	Yes	
Mike Wilson (Alternate)			
Kimberley White	Yes	Yes	
Cheryl Kelly			
Debra Garnes (Alternate)			
Troy Nicolini			
Heidi Benzonelli		Yes	
David Couch (Alternate)			
Elaine Weinreb		Yes	
Gordon Johnson (Alternate)			