

Political Advertising Disclosures

7. All Non-Independent Expenditure Ads by Candidates and Political Party Committees

Unless otherwise covered below, all mass mailings of more than 200 similar pieces must contain:

- the words **“Paid for by”** immediately adjacent to and either above or in front of the committee’s name and address on the outside of the mailing and on at least one of the inserts
- in no less than 6-point type and in a color or print that contrasts with the background

If the sender is a single committee, the identification need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail.

Unless otherwise covered below, all mass emails of more than 200 similar pieces must contain:

- the name of the committee sending the email preceded by the words **“Paid for by”** in at least the same size font as the majority of the text

Communication	Disclosure and Manner of Display
Print ads supporting or opposing a ballot measure designed to be individually distributed including mailings, door hangers, flyers, faxes, posters, newspaper and magazine ads, and oversized campaign buttons and bumper stickers (buttons 10 inches in diameter or larger and stickers 60 square inches or larger)	• “Ad paid for by [committee’s name]” (on file with Form 410). (Note: a printed letter ad may use “Paid for by” instead of “Ad paid for by”.) ○ Disclosure Format: Text must be in no less than 10-point font and in a color that has a reasonable degree of contrast with the background of the advertisement.
Print ads supporting or opposing a ballot measure larger than those designed to be individually distributed, such as billboards and signs (including yard signs)	• “Ad paid for by [committee’s name]” (on file with Form 410). • Disclosure Format: Text must constitute a height of at least five percent of the advertisement, meaning that each line must be at least five percent of the advertisement, and must appear in a color that has a reasonable degree of contrast with the background. ○ Committee Name: the text for the name of the committee may be shortened by displaying only enough of the first part of the committee name to uniquely identify the committee.

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Communication	Disclosure and Manner of Display
Electronic media ads (non-third party influencer) supporting or opposing a ballot measure that are a graphic, image, animated graphic, or animated image that an online platform hosting the ad allows to link to an internet website not covered below under social media ads and website and email ads	• Include for the duration of the advertisement, “Ad paid for by [committee name]” disclosures in a box with a solid white or black background at the bottom of the advertisement. Text shall be in a contrasting color, in at least 11-point, non-condensed standard Arial Regular type.* • Committee Name: the text for the name of the committee may be shortened by displaying only enough of the first part of the committee name to uniquely identify the committee. • NOTE: If the image takes up fewer than 65,000 square pixels (smaller than a standard 728 x 90 pixel leaderboard image advertisement), then the advertisement may instead include “Who funded this ad?” in at least 8-point standard Arial Regular type with a hyperlink to a website containing the required disclosures. • Unless the disclosure area includes full “Ad Paid for by” disclosure, the advertisement must also link to a website containing the full disclosure in a contrasting color and in no less than 11-point font. • An internet website that is hyperlinked to the ad shall remain online and available to the public until 30 days after the date of the election. • Artificial Intelligence: If a committee creates, originally publishes, or originally distributes an ad that contains any image, audio, or video that is generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence, a disclosure stating: “Ad generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence.” is required in the same manner as the other disclosures and in a clear and conspicuous format at the top of the disclosure area before the “Ad paid for by” disclosures separated from the other disclosures by a blank line. An image, audio or video is generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence if: (1) The ad is entirely created using artificial intelligence and would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be authentic; or (2) The media used in the ad is materially altered by artificial intelligence such that the alteration would cause a reasonable person to have a fundamentally different understanding of the altered media when comparing it to an unaltered version.

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Communication	Disclosure and Manner of Display
	○ An image, audio or video is not generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence if the media is immaterially altered by artificial intelligence, including a cosmetic adjustment, color edit, cropped image, or resized image. • Any text or image not required shall not appear in the disclosure area, except as otherwise authorized or required by applicable law. *This text is not required if including it or the abbreviated "Who funded this ad?" font would take up more than 10 percent of the graphic. In such circumstances the ad need only include a hyperlink to a website containing the website disclosures.
Social media ads (non-third party influencer) supporting or opposing a ballot measure that are a graphic, image, animated graphic, or animated image that an online platform hosting the ad allows to link to an internet website	• Advertisements in the form of posts, comments, or other communications made via social media and posted directly by the social media page or account of the committee paying for the advertisement must include "Artificial Intelligence" and "Ad paid for by" disclosures if applicable in a contrasting color that is easily readable by the average viewer and in no less than 10-point font on the cover or header photo of the committee's profile, landing page, or similar location; or on each individual post that is an advertisement. • The disclosures must be visible on the cover or header photo when the profile, landing page, or similar location is viewed from any electronic device that is commonly used to view this form of electronic media including, but not limited to, a computer screen, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. If this is impracticable only a hyperlink, icon, button, or tab to an internet website containing the required "Artificial Intelligence" and "Ad paid for by" disclosures is permissible. • "Artificial Intelligence" disclosure must appear at the top of the disclosure area before the "Ad paid for by" disclosure, separated from the other disclosures by a blank line. • Not required when the only expense or cost of the communication is compensated staff time unless the social media account was created only for the purpose of advertisements under the Act.

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Website and email (non-third party influencer) supporting or opposing a ballot measure	• “Paid for by” [committee’s name] (on file with Form 410) and “Artificial Intelligence” disclosures if applicable printed clearly and legibly in a contrasting color and in no less than 8-point font at the top or bottom of the email, top or bottom of every publicly accessible page of the website, or when posted on a non-social media website that is not the committee’s website, at the top or bottom of each individual post. • “Artificial Intelligence” disclosure must appear at the top of the disclosure area before the “Ad paid for by” and “Committee’s Top Funder(s)” disclosures, separated from the other disclosures by a blank line.
Radio or Telephone ads supporting or opposing a ballot measure	• “Ad paid for by [committee’s name]” (on file with Form 410). • Disclosure Format: Must be spoken clearly for at least three seconds at the beginning or end of the ad or call, in a pitch and tone substantially similar to the rest of the advertisement.
Television* and video ads supporting or opposing a ballot measure (including non-third party influencer videos disseminated over the Internet) *Television ads include those distributed via streaming technology or viewed via connected TV.	• “Ad paid for by [committee’s name]” (on file with Form 410). • Disclosure Format: Text must be of sufficient size to be legible to an average viewer, in a contrasting color to the background and must appear for at least four seconds at either the beginning or end of the advertisement. If the television or video ad is shorter than the required disclosure display time, the disclosure may be displayed for the length of the advertisement. • Disclosure must also be spoken during the ad if the written disclosure appears for less than five seconds of a broadcast 30 seconds or less, or for at least 10 seconds of a broadcast that lasts longer than 30 seconds. • For committee name on videos disseminated over the internet ONLY: the text for the name of the committee may be shortened by displaying only enough of the first part of the committee name to uniquely identify the committee.
Third-party influencer ads that appear on websites, web applications, or digital applications	• Advertisements posted on a website, web application, or digital application and posted by a page or account of a paid third-party influencer and not of the committee paying for the advertisement must include a disclosure that is substantially similar to “The author was paid by [name of committee and committee identification number] in connection with this posting.”

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	○ If the content is written, the disclaimer shall be readily legible to an average viewer; if it is in audio format, it shall be clearly audible. ○ Not required when the content is posted on a committee's own website, profile, or landing page by a person compensated by the committee to post such content, or where the only expense or cost is compensated staff time, unless the compensated employee of the committee's principal duties are to post content on their own social media page or account." NOTE: The <i>committee paying</i> for the advertisement must notify the paid third-party posting the ad of the requirement to include disclaimer.
Paid Spokesperson: Payment of \$5,000 or more to an individual for individual's appearance in a ballot measure ad	• In addition to other disclosures, include: "<i>[spokesperson's name]</i> is being paid by this campaign or its donors". • Printed, televised, or video ad: shown continuously in highly visible font except when the disclosure for television and video ads above is being shown. • Radio broadcast or phone message: spoken in clearly audible format.
Paid Spokesperson: Payment of <i>any amount</i> to an individual portraying a member of a licensed or certified occupation (e.g., nurse, firefighter, lawyer) <u>Exception:</u> If the paid individual is actually a member of the occupation portrayed, the committee may omit this disclosure. The committee must maintain documentation of the individual's license or certification.	• In addition to the disclosure above, include: "Persons portraying members of an occupation in this advertisement are compensated spokespersons not necessarily employed in those occupations". • Printed or televised ad: shown continuously in highly visible font. • Radio broadcast or phone message: spoken in clearly audible format.
All other ballot measure advertisements	• "Ad paid for by [committee's name]" (on file with Form 410).* • Disclosure Format: All text must be in a size, and color contrasting the background, that is readily legible to an average viewer. *For text messages sent using mass distribution technology and telephone calls of 500 or more in similar nature please see additional information below.

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Radio and television* ads supporting or opposing a candidate *Television ads include those distributed via streaming technology or viewed via connected TV.	• Radio: “Ad paid for by” followed by name of committee as it appears on most recent Form 410 at the beginning or end of advertisement read in a clearly spoken manner with pitch and tone substantially similar to the rest of advertisement. • Television: “Ad paid for by” followed by name of committee as it appears on most recent Form 410 shown for at least four seconds. Letters must be in a type size greater than or equal to four percent of the height of the screen. If the television ad is shorter than the required disclosure display time, the disclosure may be displayed for the length of the advertisement. • Artificial Intelligence: If a committee creates, originally publishes, or originally distributes an ad that contains any image, audio, or video that is generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence, a disclosure stating: “Ad generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence.” is required in the same manner as the other disclosures and in a clear and conspicuous format. An image, audio, or video is generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence if: (1) The ad is entirely created using artificial intelligence and would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be authentic; or (2) The media used in the ad is materially altered by artificial intelligence such that the alteration would cause a reasonable person to have a fundamentally different understanding of the altered media when comparing it to an unaltered version. ○ An image, audio, or video is not generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence if the media is immaterially altered by artificial intelligence.

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Social media ads (non-third party influencer) supporting or opposing a candidate	• Advertisements in the form of posts, comments or other communications made via social media and posted directly by the social media page or account of the committee paying for the advertisement must include “Artificial Intelligence” and “Ad paid for by” disclosures if applicable in a contrasting color that is easily readable by the average viewer and in no less than 10-point font on the cover or header photo of the committee’s profile, landing page, or similar location; or on each individual post that is an advertisement. • The disclosures must be visible on the cover or header photo when the profile, landing page, or similar location is viewed from any electronic device that is commonly used to view this form of electronic media including, but not limited to, a computer screen, laptop, tablet or smart phone. If this is impracticable, only a hyperlink, icon, button, or tab to an internet website containing the required “Artificial Intelligence” and “Ad paid for by” disclosures is permissible. • Disclosures are not required on social media advertisements for which the only expense or cost of the communication is compensated staff time unless the social media account where the content is posted was created only for the purpose of advertisements.
Telephone calls advocating a candidate, ballot measure or both - 500 or more calls similar in nature and made by: • Vendors (“robo” calls) or • Paid individuals other than the candidate, campaign manager or volunteers	• Must identify the candidate’s committee or political party committee that authorized or paid for the call or an organization authorizing the call that files campaign reports. • Must state that the call is “paid for by” or “authorized by” the identified candidate, committee or organization. ○ <i>Examples: This call was paid for by Senator Jones;</i> <i>This call was authorized by [name of committee].</i> • The statement can be made any time during the call. • No ID required on telephone calls personally dialed by candidate, campaign manager or volunteers.

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All text messages sent using mass distribution technology	If sent by a candidate-controlled committee for elective office of the controlling candidate: • “Paid for by” or “With” followed by the name of the candidate followed by “For” followed by the name of the office sought in a color that reasonably contrasts with the background on which it appears and in a font size that is readable by the average viewer. • If “With” is used: ○ The individual sending the text shall identify themselves by including: “(name of the individual) with (name of the candidate) for (name of office sought)” in a color that reasonably contrasts with the background on which it appears and in a font size that is readable by the average viewer. ○ A disclosure using “With” may appear anywhere in the text message, including conversational content, and need not appear as a separate statement apart from the content of the message. If sent by a political party committee: • “Paid for by” or “With” followed by the name of the committee, or a hyperlink or URL for an internet website (in a color that reasonably contrasts with the background on which it appears and in a font size that is readable by the average viewer) containing the following disclosure: ○ “Paid for by” or “With” [committee’s name]” (on file with Form 410 or 461). ○ The text of the disclosure on the internet website shall be in a color that reasonably contrasts with the background on which it appears and in no less than 8-point font. • If “With” is used: ○ The individual sending the text shall identify themselves by including: “(name of the individual) with (name of committee or hyperlink or URL)” in a color that reasonably contrasts with the background on which it appears and in a font size that is readable by the average viewer. ○ A disclosure using “With” may appear anywhere in the text message, including conversational content, and need not appear as a separate statement apart from the content of the message.

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	• An internet website that is hyperlinked shall remain online and available to the public until 30 days after the election. • The text of the disclosure on the internet website shall be in a color that reasonably contrasts with the background on which it appears and in no less than eight-point font. • For text message exchanges consisting of a sequence of multiple text messages sent on the same day the disclosure is only required on the first text message in the sequence that supports or opposes a candidate or measure. • The text for the name of the committee may be shortened by displaying only enough of the first part of the committee name to uniquely identify the committee.

The information on this chart does not carry the force of law. If there are any discrepancies between the chart and the Act or its corresponding regulations and opinions, the Act and its regulations and opinions will control.

***If a disclosure statement required by local ordinance is substantially similar to a disclosure statement required under the Act, the two disclosure statements may be merged into a single statement.**

References: [Government Code Sections](#): 84305, 84310, 84502, 84504.3, 84504.4, 84504.5, 84504.8, 84511, 84513, 84514
[Title 2 Regulations](#): 18435, 18440, 18450.4, 18450.7, 18450.9, 18450.10