

Modernizing Campaign Finance Disclosure

There is no doubt the current system – widely viewed as outdated and cumbersome – needs upgrading. – *Governor Jerry Brown*

What is the problem?

Cal-Access is the Secretary of State's online system for campaign finance filing and disclosure. State candidates and political committees submit required filings through Cal-Access for online publication. With heightened public alarm about money in politics, the outdated Cal-Access system – now more than 15 years old – is inadequate to provide meaningful transparency.

It is clear that a new statewide electronic filing system is needed.
– *Government Operations Agency report, 2015*

How can we modernize campaign disclosure?

SB 1349 (Hertzberg) would direct the SOS to develop a modern campaign finance disclosure system that is more user-friendly, and will allow voters to access important information that may inform their vote. The goals are to:

- Create a data-driven system
- Allow integration of city, county, and state-level data
- Track and aggregate contributions, to allow voters to see who the top contributors are
- Allocate up to \$13.5 million to replace the outdated current system with a modern, improved Cal-Access
- Develop the system using cost-effective, streamlined, and innovative IT development processes

Secretary Alex Padilla has been a leader in trying to enhance Cal-Access. With Sen. Hertzberg's bill, the Legislature will be able to give Secretary Padilla the direction and resources necessary to bring Cal-Access into the 21st century.

Who Supports Modernizing Campaign Disclosure?

An unusual coalition of labor, business, social justice, and good government groups have come together to find areas of common ground. California Common Cause co-convenes the Political Reform and Modernization (PRAM) group with California Business Roundtable, California Common Cause, California Forward, and the California Labor Federation. PRAM has prioritized the modernization of Cal-Access as a top goal.