

Political Reform Division

Quarterly Business Program Updates

September 16, 2026



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State

AGENDA

- Program Updates

- Customer Service Updates
- Committee Registration Trends
- Lobbying Filer Activity
- CARS Go-Live Website

- 2025/26 Legislative Update

- Watchlist

- Questions and Answers



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<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/yctEKaagnq>

Customer Service Updates

Phone Calls Answered Live

- June 99%
- July 95%
- August 97%

Active Filer Counts

- Committees: 16,215 (+921)
- Clients: 3446 (+54)
- Employers: 787 (+6)
- Firms: 461 (+9)
- Lobbyists: 2522 (+25)



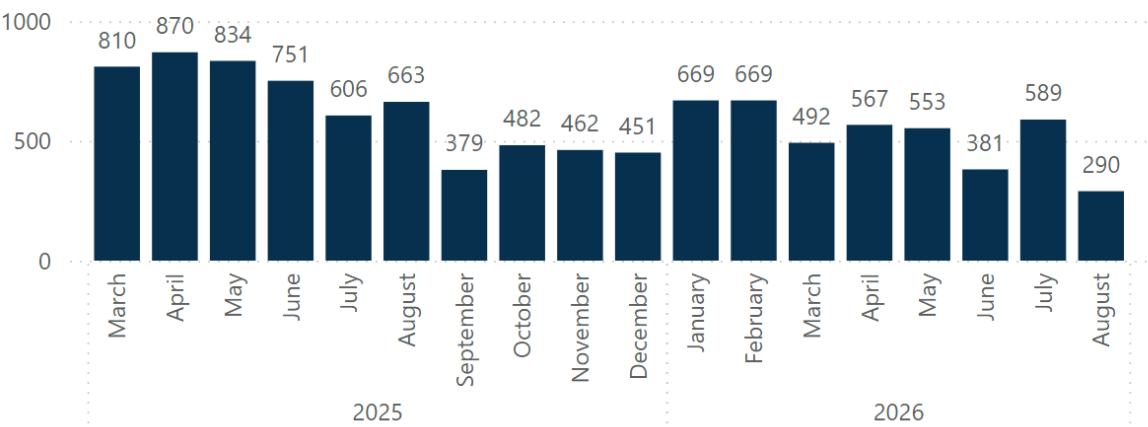
Committee Registration

- We are currently processing Initial 410 filings received August 26, 2026
- Initial Form 410 filing volume has increased recently
- Resources have been prioritized to initial Form 410 processing, and we continue to make progress decreasing the turnaround time

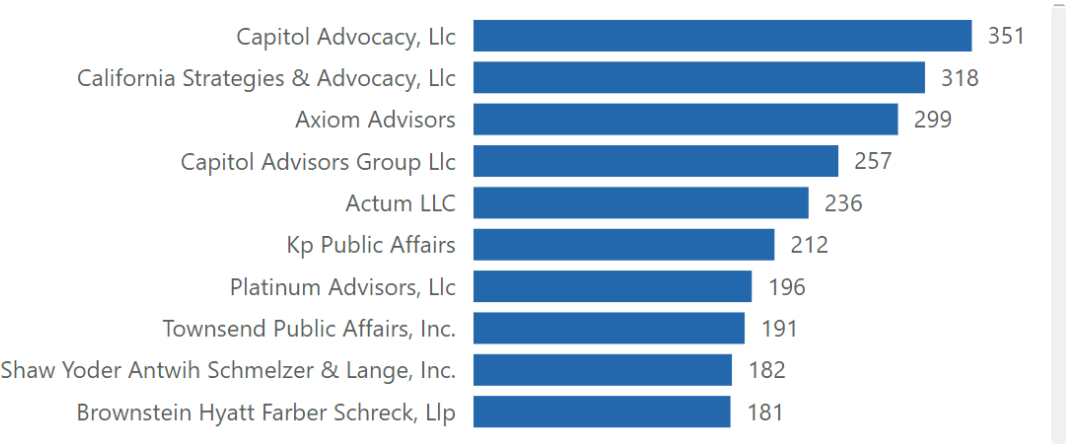


Lobbying Registration

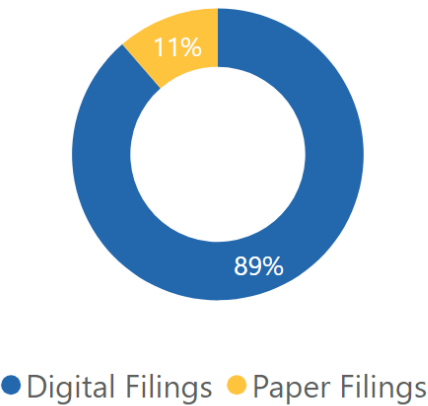
Total Forms Received by Month



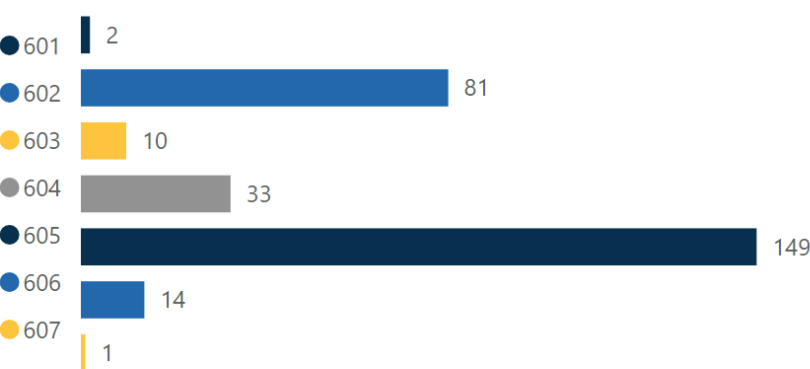
Top Filers This Session



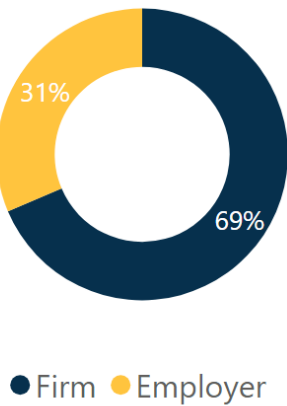
Digital vs Paper



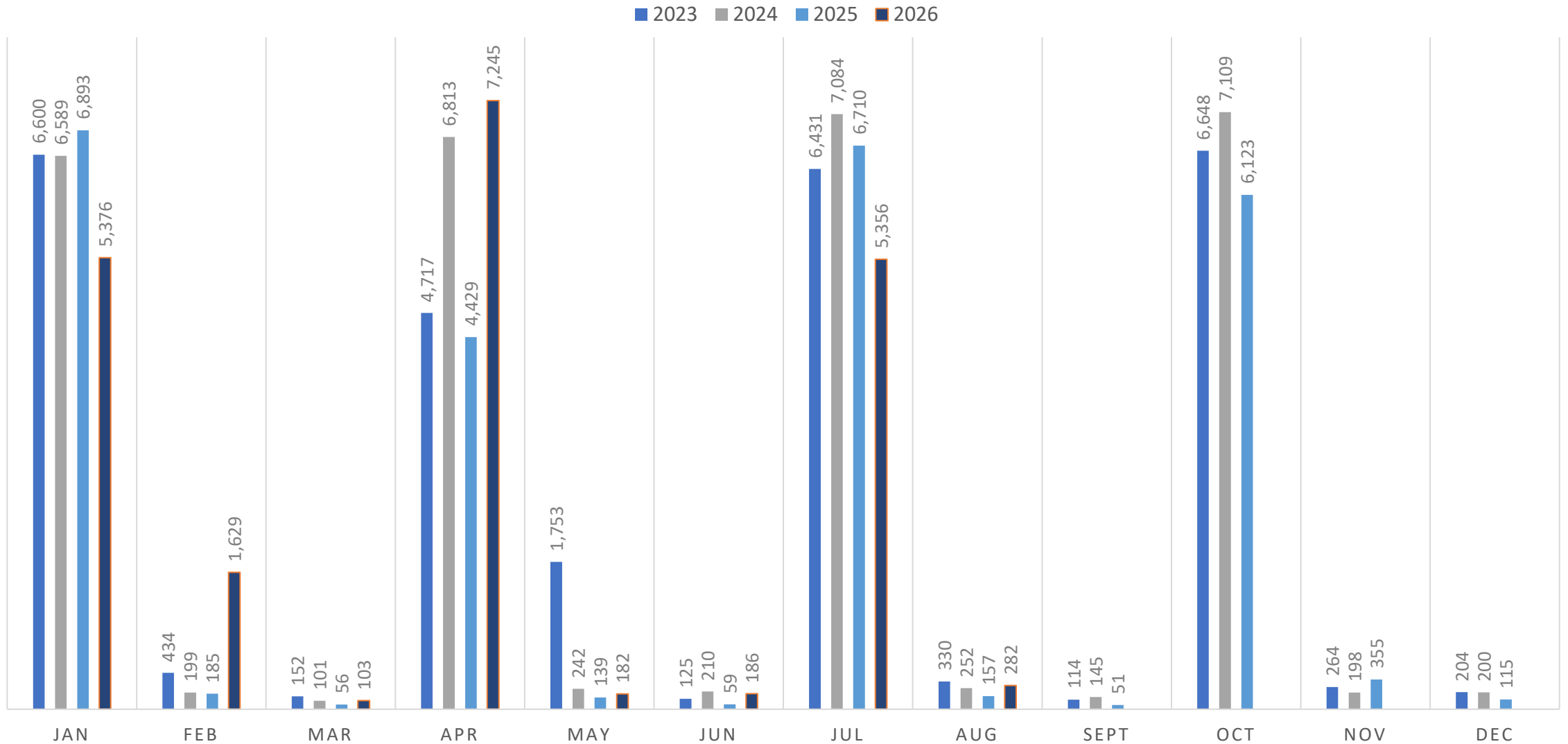
Forms by type



Employers vs Firms



Lobbying Disclosure Trends



Upcoming
Campaign
Deadlines

Filing Schedule for
State Candidates and their Controlled Committees
Listed on the November 3, 2026 Ballot

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
Within 10 Business Days \$5,000 Report	Ongoing (File anytime other than the 90-day election cycle)	497	Only E-filers file this report: - File if a contribution of \$5,000 or more is received from a single source. - No paper copy is required. - File within ten business days of receipt of contribution.
Within 24 Hours Election Cycle Reports	8/5/26 – 11/3/26	497	- File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. - File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with <i>another</i> candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot, or made to a political party committee. - The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. - E-file only. No paper copy is required.
Jul 31, 2026 Semi-Annual	* – 6/30/26	460	All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before June 30, 2026.
Sep 24, 2026 1 st pre-Election	7/1/26 – 9/19/26	460 or 470	Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).
Oct 22, 2026 2 nd Pre-Election	9/20/26 – 10/17/26	460	- All committees must file this statement. - Paper copies must be filed by personal delivery, guaranteed overnight service, or by email with a verified digital signature.
Feb 1, 2027 Semi-Annual	10/18/26 – 12/31/26	460	- All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026. - The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.



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CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) Go-Live Website Updates

- Status of Go-Live
- How to Prepare
- Frequently Asked Questions

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CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) Go-Live Updates

Helpful Resources

[How To File Electronically](#)

[Electronic Filing Password Request](#)

[Elections Division](#)

[Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#)

[Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\)](#)

[Political Reform Audit Program for the California Franchise Tax Board](#)

[Ballot Measure Total Contributions](#)

[CAL-ACCESS Replacement](#)

Overview

The CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) will be available for use in November, 2026. After CARS becomes available, the current CAL-ACCESS system will no longer be available for use. This page provides updates, key milestones, and actions stakeholders should take to prepare to use this new system.

For general project news, stakeholder bulletins, and historical updates, please visit the [CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project](#) page.

Go-Live Status

Current Status: In Development
Target Go-Live Date: Post-election, November 2026

The CARS Project team continues to make progress toward deploying the new CAL-ACCESS system. Go-live readiness activities are underway, including system testing, training preparation, and stakeholder engagement.

This section will be updated as go-live dates and readiness milestones are confirmed.

How to Prepare for Go-Live

Stakeholders can prepare for the new system by taking the following steps:

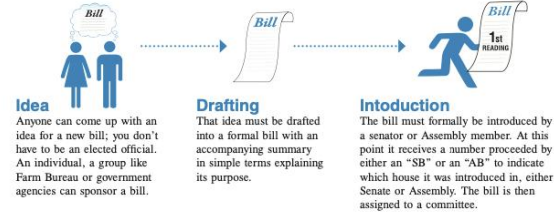
2025/2026 Legislative Watch



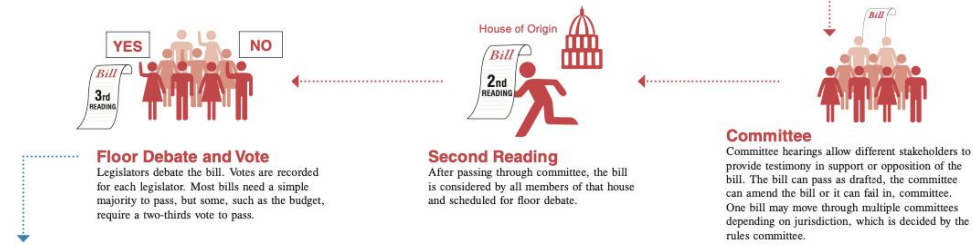
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How a Bill Becomes Law in California

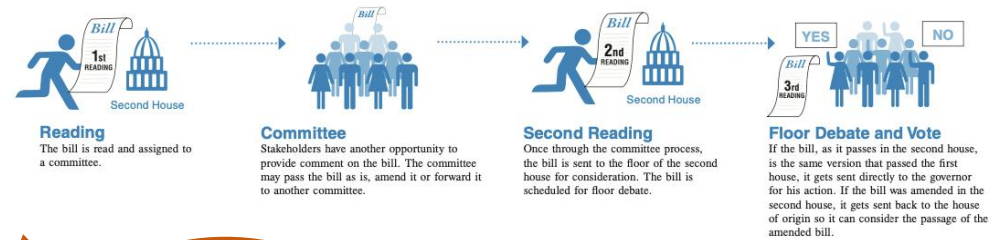
Initial Steps by Author



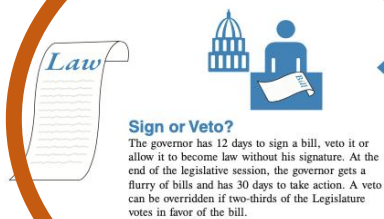
Action in the First House



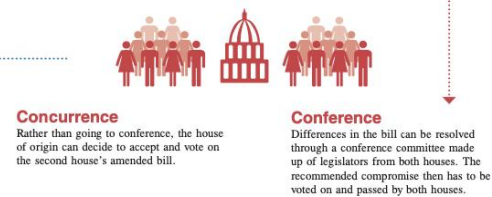
Action in the Second House



Governor



Resolution of Two-House Differences (If Necessary)



We are here

2026/2026 Legislative Watch List

~~AB 775 (Fong, D) Behested payments: reporting~~

~~AB 950 (Solache, D) Political Reform Act of 1974: advertisements~~

~~AB 1560 (Tangipa) Lobbyist Certification~~

AB 1736 (Pellerin) "Astroturfing" Prohibition for Lobbyist Employers

~~AB 1788 (Boerner) Enhanced Disclosure for Nonprofit Organizations that Pay for Elected Official Travel~~

~~AB 1789 (Boerner) Mandatory Campaign Training~~

~~AB 1840 (Sanchez) Prohibition on Using Nonpublic Information Related to Prediction Market Contracts~~

~~AB 2255 (Pellerin) Enhanced Disclosure for Large Expenditures~~

~~AB 2413 (Ransom) Large-Format Public Advertisements at the Public Expense~~

AB 2421 (Valencia) Committee Termination

~~AB 2592 (Pacheco) Transfer of Lobbying Training to the FPPC/AB 1~~

AB 2655 (Valencia) Use of Campaign Funds for Security Expenses: Licensed Security Personnel

~~SB 401 (Hurtado, D) Political Reform Act of 1974: filing deadlines: emergency situations~~

~~SB 1159 (Cabaldron) Excluding AI from the Definition of "Person" and Related Terms~~

~~SB 1175 (Rubio) - Lobbyist Registration and Termination~~

~~SB 1225 (Niello and Umberg) Preparation of Ballot Summary and Titles~~

SB 1389 (Dahle) Form 700 Late Fee Waiver Authority

~~SB 1432 (Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments) Political Reform Act~~

Track these, and others at:
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>



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Q & A

WRAP UP



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Questions & Answers



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NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Meetings

- December 16, 2026



- This slide deck will be posted on [our website.](#)
- Contact us
at: prdtrainingandoutreach@sos.ca.gov

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