

Open Government Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR  
September 9, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Open Government Commission  
Submitted by: Sam Harvey, Secretary, Open Government Commission  
Subject: Open Government Commission FY2025-2026 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Open Government Commission (OGC) has updated its work plan, which outlines Commission objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. This work plan includes the following items:

- Ongoing review of complaints concerning alleged non-compliance with the Open Government Ordinance, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, or the Lobbyist Registration Act.
- Propose legislation or procedures to further ensure the City's compliance with the Open Government Ordinance, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and the Lobbyist Registration Act.
- Administer and make more effective the Lobbyist Registration Act, including reviewing how City systems may be upgraded to permit electronic submission of forms and fees for lobbyist registration and reporting.
- Advise the City Council of any action or policy that would enhance open and effective government in the City of Berkeley.
- Review and make recommendations regarding public access and participation in public meetings of the City Council and other City bodies
- Review and provide advice on any proposed changes the City Council's rules of procedure.
- Review, approve, and forward to the City Council the annual report submitted to the Open Government Commission by the City Manager regarding compliance with the Open Government Ordinance, the Public Records Act, the Brown Act,

the Lobbyist Registration Act, and any other information the City Manager deems appropriate for open and effective government in the City of Berkeley.

- Receive trainings on the following topics:
  - Brown Act
  - Conflicts of Interest
  - Public Records Act
  - Open Governance Ordinance
  - Berkeley Lobbyist Registration Act
- Explore ways to improve public access and usability of the City's website
- Monitor and make recommendations related to City progress in providing remote access to City commission and board meetings
- Explore ways for the City to better publicize the work of City boards and commissions and address vacancies on City boards and commissions

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the regular meeting on June 19, 2025, the Open Government Commission approved the FY2025-2026 Work Plan, which will be used to guide the Commission's work throughout the year.

**Action:** Motion to approve work plan

**Vote:** M/S/C: Lee/Lazarus; Ayes: Bowen, Lee, Ching, Soichet, Lazarus, Saginor; Noes: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Sudharsan

#### BACKGROUND

See attached Work Plan.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No environmental or climate impacts or opportunities were identified as a result of this recommendation.

#### POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Based on Commission research and public hearings, new initiatives and recommendations to City Council may be submitted to City Council at such time deemed necessary.

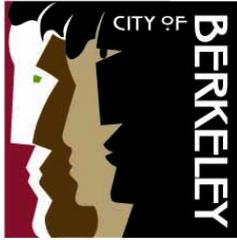
#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Unknown, but none expected.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Samuel Harvey, Commission Secretary (510) 981-6998  
Kitt Saginor, Chair (510) 981-6998

Attachment: 1: Open Government Commission Work Plan



**Work Plan for FY2025-2026 (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)  
Approved June 19, 2025**

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- Receive trainings on the following topics with the goal of completing all trainings by Q1 2026:
  - Brown Act
  - Conflicts of Interest
  - Public Records Act
  - Open Governance Ordinance
  - Berkeley Lobbyist Registration Act

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