



M U L T I S T A T E

[FPPC finds Chin guilty of violating campaign finance law, wants higher fine](#)
(California)

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) staff proposed a \$3500 fine on former Hanford Mayor Dan Chin but today, February 17, the commission unanimously rejected their own staff's recommendation, embedded at the end of this article.

The FPPC sent the matter back to the staff saying that the campaign law violation committed by Chin was serious.

The FPPC wants Chin to pay a higher fine. The maximum that could be charged is \$5,000.

Chin is the treasurer and principal of Hanford Now, a political committee that was involved in the recall of Hanford Council member Francisco Ramirez. Ramirez was recalled in January of 2018 but then won his seat back that November.

FPPC staff said that in a mutually agreed upon legal statement between the state and Chin that Chin admitted he violated campaign law. Chin later said it was negligence on his part.

According to the statement of facts, or stipulation, Chin accepted \$9,100 in cash contributions—many in the form of \$100 bills— for Hanford Now from January 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. The law states that cash contributions of \$25 or more must be reported.

Chairman of the FPPC Richard Miadich said it was “...hard to believe (Chin) acted negligently. These things can't both be true. I believe the bag of \$100 bills (rather than his) statement.”

Meanwhile, [Ramirez told the commission](#), “I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt (Chin) tried to deceive the public.” He said he was referring to money Chin got from the public and special interests.

Although Chin said he is no longer actively involved in local politics he is currently a LAFCO commissioner along with Ramirez. He recently spoke at Hanford council meeting opposing zoning changes at 12th and Lacey Avenue and the Costco Center. LAFCO is responsible for coordinating changes in local boundaries such as the annexations of cities.

Chin told the Valley Voice that before the FPPC hearing today that the staff could find no intent of wrong-doing. He said that the FPPC staff reduced the number of violations from 21 to one and the fine from \$105,000 to \$3,500. He said the commission proceedings against him are civil in nature, not criminal.

But the stipulation stated that Chin should be fined for causing "...public harm in the way that these violations inhibited the ability of the Enforcement Division to determine if other violations were committed."

"By accepting cash, the public has no assurances that the true sources of the contributions were properly disclosed," according to the stipulation.

According to the stipulation Chin made statements that were not consistent with the evidence. "For example, when asked about cash contributions, he asserted that he did not need to report individual contributors because the cash contributions were under \$100."

The stipulation concluded it was unclear if there was an intent to mislead or conceal the true source or if Chin was negligent in collecting the money and keeping documentation. Later, the stipulation said, Chin refused to meet with an investigator.

Chin said as the investigator became more aggressive, he refused to meet with the investigator on advice of counsel.

"The evidence supports a finding that the violations were negligent," according to the stipulation. Chin kept and produced records as part of the investigation but he failed to keep his own accounting such as a spreadsheet, according to the stipulation.

Chin repeatedly accepted cash contributions, according to the stipulation. He failed to amend campaign statements to reflect the itemized contributions of \$100 or more that were received in cash.

Chin has claimed, the stipulation said, that the contributions did not have to be itemized as they were under \$100. "However," according to the stipulation "this is unlikely to be true as the cash was received as \$100 bills."

During Chin's successful recall campaign he accused Ramirez of mishandling campaign funds, exactly what he is has been found guilty of now by the FPPC.

Hanford Now, according to the stipulation, had a prior history of problems. The Enforcement Division issued a warning letter to Hanford Now for failing to disclose it was primarily formed to oppose a local Hanford ballot measure.

In response to a question from Commissioner Catharine Baker, FPPC Chief of Enforcement Angela J. Brereton said she didn't know who started the investigation against Chin. It could have come from an anonymous complaint or was the result of a spinoff from another case, Brereton said.

The FPPC enforces the state's Political Reform Act which was passed in the wake of Watergate. The law regulates campaign activities and personal financial affairs of state and local officials.

[Hoboken campaign finance change favor unions](#) (Hoboken, NJ)

The Hoboken City Council has once again adopted an ordinance to change the city's campaign finance laws, allowing labor unions to contribute more money to political campaigns. But how soon the ordinance can take effect may rest on the outcome of a court hearing on a related matter.

The current rules only allow political committees to contribute up to \$500 to candidates instead of the state maximum of \$7,200, but the ordinance grants unions an exemption.

The ordinance is essentially the same as the one [that was adopted at the end of last year](#). It was readopted because of an amendment that stipulates a trigger clause.

In this case, the ordinance only goes into effect based on the outcome [of a legal complaint between City Clerk James Farina and Councilman Michael DeFusco](#) over the latter's campaign finances.

The complaint by Farina, which became the catalyst for changing the city's laws, alleges that DeFusco violated the city's finance laws during his 2019 reelection campaign. DeFusco called Farina's complaint a political stunt against him.

The case has been sitting in the courts for over two years and is currently in West New York's municipal court, after being moved from Hoboken then Union City. A court hearing on the case is scheduled for March 3.

The amendment states that ordinance will go in effect if the court rules that the city's campaign finance laws are unconstitutional or are unenforceable.

[Corporation Counsel Brian Aiola had recommended the council](#) to take another vote on the ordinance because of the amendment, writing that while a substantial amendment is not defined, state statute calls for notice and publication of an ordinance prior to a vote, which had not been done. He also argued that if challenged, the amendment could be considered substantial by the court.

The City Council had voted both on an emergency and to introduce the ordinance again at their Feb. 2 meeting with the amendment. It was adopted again last night 5-3-1, with Councilmembers Tiffanie Fisher, Jen Giattino and Ruben Ramos voting no, and DeFusco recusing himself from the vote.

It's re-adoption came after Fisher [had sued the city to overturn the ordinance](#), arguing that the amendment, which had been added during its initial first and second readings last year, was "substantive" and failed to provide the public with any additional notice, "by way of providing an additional first reading of the amendment, which was required by law."

Fisher continued to oppose the ordinance before it's re-adoption. "So far, the only argument that I've heard is that 'well if one person breaks a law, we should just let everyone break the law' instead of actually working together to do everything we possibly can to make these laws even stronger," she said during the meeting,

The ordinance has also been opposed by a number of residents, who came out at last night's meeting to voice their displeasure with it.

"In situations where unions are involved, powerful unions that have tons of money and are seeking to build projects, they're not going to be donating money to small candidates who don't have any power to employ them, or sign their contracts, or benefit them in any way," said former City Council candidate Sheila Brennan. "It's really a situation that really only benefits people in power, to help keep them in power indefinitely."

Councilman Phil Cohen, who had introduced and sponsored the original ordinance, said that the vote that night had "everything to do with Councilman Fisher," arguing that she was seeking

damages because of what he called a technical issue in regards to the ordinance back in December.

“Why does it only address unions? It’s because that has been the one provision that has not been honored by other council people,” he said while defending the ordinance. “So when [resident] Kevin Davis says we want a level playing field, we do want a level playing field. There should be one set of rules with respect to fundraising in the city campaign elections.”

Loopholes let lobbyists flood lawmakers with campaign contributions despite prohibition (Tennessee)

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

NewsChannel 5's cameras recently caught special-interest lobbyists lining up with massive campaign contributions to curry favor with your lawmakers right before they get ready to do the public business.

More than a decade ago, lawmakers supposedly tried to outlaw the practice.

"My impression was that the lobbyist giving was out," said former state Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, D-Ripley.

NewsChannel 5 Investigates asked, "Do you think it was just window dressing?"

"I don't think so," Fitzhugh said. "It may have come about through a, for lack of a better term, a loophole — or wasn't considered at the time."

Historically in Tennessee, scandal has led to calls for reform.

In 2006, then-Gov. Phil Bredesen summoned lawmakers for a special session, calling for a new relationship between government officials and special interests. It was a call for reform that sprang from a legislative bribery scandal... and an undercover FBI sting that ensnared several prominent lawmakers.

"On the subject of ethics, it is time for bold actions," Bredesen said, drawing bipartisan applause.

"People whose lives and businesses are affected by what we do have the right to employ people to follow legislation, to bring information to the table. But this process needs to be businesslike and arms length across the conference table in the public committee room."

When the final gavel had sounded, a new law banned lobbyist contributions to certain state officials.

Specifically, the law says "no lobbyist shall offer or make any campaign contribution, including any in-kind contribution, to or on behalf of the governor, any judge or chancellor, or any member of the general assembly, or any candidate for the office of governor, supreme court judge, court of appeals judge, court of criminal appeals judge, circuit court judge, chancellor, juvenile court judge, general sessions judge, state senator, or state representative."

But just five years later, video posted to YouTube shows Republican leader Glen Casada openly acknowledging using his position to try to convince the Tennessee Education Association, which lobbies the legislature, to pony up more money to help Republican candidates.

"Democrats do that, the Republicans do that. It's just done," Casada said. "And I actually don't see anything wrong with that. We're trying to raise money."

And just before this year's legislative session, we spotted Capitol Hill's top special-interest lobbyists scurrying from one fundraiser to another with checks in hand.

The big draws: fundraisers put on by House Speaker Cameron Sexton and the Senate speaker, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally.

That data reveals Speaker Sexton raked in almost \$180,000 in campaign contributions for his own campaign and his leadership PAC. Lt. Gov. McNally snagged \$140,000 for his campaign and PAC.

Combined, the pair got more than \$320,000 — most of it from special interests with business before the legislature.

[Corruption At The Hawaii Legislature Puts Campaign Donations In The Spotlight](#) (Hawaii)

Often it is scandal that spurs reform, and the Hawaii Legislature may now be facing one of those moments.

The Legislature has been [jolted by the convictions](#) of former Senate Democratic Majority Leader J. Kalani English and former House Finance Committee Vice Chairman Ty Cullen, who both pleaded guilty Tuesday to accepting bribes to benefit a wastewater company.

In addition to illicit cash that changed hands in a restaurant men's room and was stuffed under the floor mat of a car, there were dozens of apparently lawful campaign contributions that [businessman Milton Choy showered](#) on English, Cullen and other political figures in Hawaii.

Those donations may be legal, but they suddenly appear so unsavory that lawmakers are eager to be [rid of them](#). And the ugly political optics of all that suggest lawmakers may now be motivated to overhaul Hawaii's system of campaign funding.

The larger issue being raised by the corruption scandal is the public's mistrust of politicians and "a broader network that exists of influential people who are insiders in politics," meaning people who have access to power, said Neal Milner, political science professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii Manoa.

"Influence is about access, access is about power, and power is often about these kind of subtle things that you have at your disposal," he said during a recent interview on the Honolulu Star-Advertiser's "Spotlight Hawaii."

"So when you see engineering firms and construction firms giving money to political campaigns — and that includes this guy with the cesspool company — most of the time the money is given in a general sense because it improves your reputation, it increases the likelihood that you'll get some kind of access," Milner said.

"The interesting thing about the cesspool guy is that a lot of his money went in that direction — you're trying to become a player the way some of the big companies are players here," he said.

Some see a more direct link between campaign donations and profitable government contracts. Sandy Ma, executive director of Common Cause Hawaii, said Choy's contributions bought him access to insider knowledge about what projects state government would fund, and also helped get him access to agency heads who would oversee those contracts.

"It positioned him properly to meet the right people, shake the right hands, so that when a procurement contract is announced, his name is already percolating, his company is already percolating around in people's minds," she said.

That pattern is often described as “pay-to-play,” which Ma said has been banned in other states including Connecticut, Illinois and Washington, D.C. by restricting or prohibiting contractors from making political donations. The Connecticut and Illinois laws were both triggered by scandals in those states.

Hawaii has a law to curb pay to play, but it has proved to be easy to circumvent. The law prohibits “any person” with a state or county contract from making donations during the life of that contract, but firms sidestep that restriction by having, for example, family members or company executives make personal donations.

Kristin Izumi-Nitao, executive director of the state Campaign Spending Commission, said the Hawaii ban on contractor donations has also proved to be difficult to enforce because there is no centralized database for all of the contracts and contractors who are hired by various state and county agencies.

Contractor Grace Pacific was fined \$1,000 in 2019 under the Hawaii law for a donation to state Sen. Glenn Wakai, but few other cases resulted in fines under the existing law.

Ma said Common Cause is going to look at tightening the weak existing law, and also wants lawmakers to consider whether subcontractors should also be banned from making political contributions. But that also presents enforcement challenges because there is no centralized list of state and county subcontractors.

The city of Honolulu and Maui County both contracted with Choy’s company, H2O Process Systems, to clean city and county buses, and the company web site says it also worked on a wastewater treatment plant on Maui, apparently as a subcontractor.

Choy, his family members and employees from his various companies have donated more than \$356,000 to political campaigns since 2014, according to campaign finance data, including more than \$160,000 donated by Choy himself.

When asked if state campaign spending officials are investigating any of those donations by Choy, his family or people affiliated with his companies, Izumi-Nitao said she cannot comment.

Another idea backed by Common Cause is a ban on campaign fundraising events for state lawmakers during the legislative session from January until early May. Critics have argued for years those spring fundraisers, which are routinely held, are unseemly at best.

Part of the problem is mid-session fundraisers can create scenarios where lawmakers hold official hearings on bills that are important to lobbyists or political activists in the daytime, and then host fundraisers that very evening to solicit campaign contributions from the same people.

Banning those mid-session fundraisers has been discussed for years, but the idea was never incorporated into state law.

“I think that’s a strategy if you’re concerned people are gaining undue influence or unfair advantage during session,” said Izumi-Nitao. “Of course, the situation is much more ripe for it now than if we discussed this in early January 2022” before Cullen and English were charged.

The idea “sounds like an area that could be impactful,” she said.

However, some neighbor island lawmakers have pointed out spring is when they are working in Honolulu for session, which from their perspective makes it a good time to hold a Honolulu fundraiser.

The Legislature has bills pending that would make it easier for the campaign spending commission to refer violations of campaign spending restrictions to county prosecutors or the state Attorney General, and would bar politicians from holding elective public office after a campaign-finance violation conviction for 10 years.

Those include [House Bill 2474](#), which was approved by the House Government Reform Committee last week, and [Senate Bill 2345](#).

Ma is also interested in an array of other campaign and lobbying reforms, including expanding public funding of campaigns.

Other Common Cause ideas include prohibiting lobbyists from fundraising for candidates, and requiring that each elected official make an entry in a publicly available log each time they meet with a lobbyist.

House Speaker Scott Saiki has said the House will offer up reform proposals that could include changes in the campaign spending laws, but the details of those proposals are not yet publicly available.

[To be continued: Proposed lobbying, ethics laws to come back to City Commission](#)
(Tallahassee, FL)

Recommendations from the Independent Ethics Board to beef up city lobbying restrictions and close loopholes allowing unregistered lobbyists to operate without consequence will come back to City Commissioners for more discussion.

Commissioners voted unanimously to bring back lobbying and other recommendations for discussion during their March meeting. The move came during a commission workshop Wednesday with the Ethics Board.

The recommendations include expanding the Ethics Board's jurisdiction to include lobbyists appearing before the city, revising the definition of a lobbyist to clear up ambiguity in city ordinances and requiring lobbyists to maintain contact logs with government officials that would become public record in three days.

Carlos Rey, chairman of the Ethics Board, told commissioners that the city's definition of lobbying is "circular," saying lobbying is what a lobbyist does and a lobbyist is one who lobbies.

"You scratch your head wondering what does that mean exactly," Rey said. "So our proposal is to ... hold lobbyists to a higher standard."

City Hall has a long history of lobbyists and self-described consultants playing fast and loose with local lobbying rules. The problem came under the microscope last summer during the public corruption trial of John "J.T." Burnette, which included testimony about the machinations of former City Commissioner Scott Maddox's secretive lobbying firm, Governance.

The Tallahassee Democrat reported in 2020 on consultants who were frequently involved in behind-the-scenes policy decisions but didn't register as lobbyists.

Ben Wilcox of Citizens for Ethics Reform said more needs to be done to address "ghost lobbyists" who don't register or disclose their clients. He noted such individuals also raise money for candidates and then lobby on behalf of the donors.

"It's been more than two years since the Tallahassee Democrat exposed these ghost lobbyists," Wilcox told commissioners. "My question is do you just not care?"

City Attorney Cassandra Jackson defended the city's lobbying ordinance, saying she took exception with the description of circular definitions.

“I think it’s very clear,” she said. “If you look at the definition of lobbying, it describes what lobbying is. It’s a written or oral communication where you’re trying to advance a particular position ... that’s going to go for a vote before the City Commission. You’re a lobbyist if you do that and you’re being paid.”

Commissioner Jeremy Matlow suggested including real estate and communications professionals in the lobbying ordinance and said the city should “zoom in on penalties and holding people accountable.”

“I tend to think the current definition covered a lot of people that should be registering,” he said. “But I do think the suggested definition makes it very clear who you are and what you need to do.”

The discussion included dueling legal opinions from the Ethics Board and the city on whether the board’s jurisdiction extends to Blueprint or the Community Redevelopment Agency. City commissioners recently voted that it does not, though the Ethics Board took the opposite view, setting up the potential for the courts to settle the question.

Matlow moved for staff to bring back information on holding a voter referendum on whether to include CRA elected members and staff in the Ethics Board’s jurisdiction. The motion failed 3-2, with Mayor John Dailey and Commissioners Dianne Williams-Cox and Curtis Richardson voting no.

Dailey said he didn’t want to take a “piecemeal” approach to charter amendments until the city goes through a formal charter review process.

“I’m not going to support any amendments to the charter ... until we have a healthy discussion on the full charter review committee and process, which is the standard for every municipality every 10 years or so. I think it’s time for a full charter review.”

The commission also grappled with how to define misuse of office, one of the more common allegations lodged against public officials in state ethics complaints and the subject of city debate for years.

The city code used to require officials to have acted “corruptly,” a high legal bar involving intent that makes it difficult to prosecute such cases. In 2017, the Ethics Board recommended the city change the standard. But the commission, which at that time included Maddox, voted against doing so.

A new commission in 2019 lowered the bar so that violations would occur if an official “knows or should have known” that their actions created a special benefit for someone. However, Ethics Board counsel John Reid said that standard has proven to be “a little too low” and could land commissioners in trouble for such routine activities as ribbon-cuttings.

The Ethics Board recommended moving to a standard that officials’ actions were “inconsistent with the proper performance” of their office to find a violation. City commissioners voted to revisit that question later.

[Lawmakers Plan To Reopen Hawaii State Capitol To The Public On March 7](#) (Hawaii)

The state House plans to vote Thursday to create a new panel of experts that will review state ethics and campaign finance laws following guilty pleas this week by two former state lawmakers in connection with a federal corruption probe.

House Speaker Scott Saiki also announced Wednesday that lawmakers will reopen the State Capitol to the public on March 7. The Capitol has been closed since March 2020 after state Sen. Clarence Nishihara tested positive for Covid-19.

To enter the building, House members, staff and the public will be required to follow the state vaccination policy that requires proof of full Covid-19 vaccination or a negative test result that is no more than 72 hours old.

Senate President Ron Kouchi later released a written statement saying the Senate had not been consulted about the reopening of the Capitol before Saiki made his announcement. The Senate “will await official word” from state Comptroller Curt Otaguro on the opening date, Kouchi wrote.

Lawmakers have clearly been [shaken by the convictions](#) of former Senate Democratic Majority Leader J. Kalani English and former House Finance Committee Vice Chairman Ty Cullen, who both pleaded guilty Tuesday to accepting bribes to benefit a wastewater company.

Saiki said some immediate steps the House wants to take in response are to reopen the Capitol, and to provide ethics training to House members on March 9. House members last completed their regularly scheduled ethics training on Jan. 22, 2021.

The House will also vote on House Resolution 9, which would create the “Commission to Increase Standards of Conduct” to recommend ways to improve current ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance laws and standards of conduct regulations, according to an announcement by House Democrats on Wednesday.

The commission will be led by retired Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge Daniel Foley as chairman, and will include Robert Harris, who is executive director of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, and Kristin Izumi-Nitao, who is executive director of the state Campaign Spending Commission.

Also on the panel will be Sandy Ma, executive director of Common Cause Hawaii; former Republican state Rep. Barbara Marumoto; Janet Mason of the League of Women Voters-Hawaii; and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii Florence Nakakuni.

Saiki said the commission will be asked to provide interim recommendations by March 31 — which would allow lawmakers enough time to act on at least some issues this year — and final recommendations by Dec. 1.

“I know there’s going to be criticism of yet another commission, but it will be asked to evaluate our ethics laws, our campaign spending laws and standard of conduct to see what needs to be improved,” Saiki said in an interview. “It’s pretty broad.”

The reports from the commission should make recommendations on “how to improve these laws, whether it’s through clarification of the standards, or enhancing penalties. How do you use these laws to deter conduct? There are a lot of questions they will need to vet.”

“Actually, I wouldn’t be surprised if they find that we have a lot of laws in place now that should be covering and deterring this kind of conduct. If that’s the case, how do you use these laws to deter that conduct?” he said.

Saiki said the plan for the new commission was well received by the House Democratic caucus in a closed-door meeting Wednesday, adding, “The House members want to take action while we are in regular session, and they see that this commission is one way that we can take some action.”

The House has also requested that the state Ethics Commission offer ethics trainings for lobbyists and government contractors, according to an announcement by House Democrats.

[**New campaign finance reporting bill would add transparency in year before election...**](#) (Idaho)

All last year, even as Idaho election campaigns and PACs were gearing up and raising lots of campaign cash, a glitch in Idaho's new electronic campaign finance reporting law only required them to report donations of \$1,000 or more within 48 hours. Full reports, including all contributions, weren't due until the end of the year, when they came in all at once. New legislation introduced this morning by Senate State Affairs Chair Patti Anne Lodge, R-Huston, would fix that by requiring full monthly reporting once a candidate or committee has raised or spent \$500.

That's already the standard for when local candidates have to report their campaign finances in the year preceding local elections; her bill would extend that to include non-election years. Lodge is co-sponsoring the bill with Rep. Caroline Nilsson Troy, R-Genesee.

"This legislation was brought to me by several different folks after they started watching the campaign finance as it's being presented in our new system," Lodge told the committee this morning. "This was brought for transparency, because elections have become year-round now."

Candidates still would only have to file annual reports in non-election years until they hit the \$500 threshold; then the monthly reporting requirement would kick in. With Idaho's new electronic reporting system, Lodge said, "It isn't that hard to do any more. ... It's for those who are collecting a lot of money, and it's not being reported, and then, all of a sudden in January, you see that \$20 million has been placed into our campaigns and there's no transparency on it."

The Senate panel voted unanimously to introduce the bill, clearing the way for a full hearing.

[**New Mexico lobbyist accuses state lawmaker of groping her**](#) (New Mexico)

A lobbyist for progressive advocacy groups in New Mexico has accused a leading Democratic state senator of groping her at a hotel reception in 2015, calling on the lawmaker to resign in a public letter.

Marianna Anaya, a registered lobbyist whose recent work involves voting rights legislation, said Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto of Albuquerque grabbed and pinched her buttocks as she stood at a cocktail table during a reception for a teachers union at a Santa Fe hotel. At the time, Anaya worked on the congressional staff for Michelle Lujan Grisham, who left Congress to become governor in 2019.

“I froze and felt an overwhelming sense of embarrassment,” Anaya said in a letter released Tuesday on social media and through an attorney. Anaya said she shared her experience after she said Ivey-Soto continued to harass her and others.

Contacted Wednesday, Ivey-Soto said he has no recollection of touching Anaya during the encounter and that he reacted with horror when she raised the issue recently.

“Her recollection is that I reached around and grabbed her behind,” Ivey-Soto said. “I was horrified when she told me this. That's not me. I said I don't reach around and unsolicited grab someone's behind. I can just tell you categorically that I didn't do that.”

An attorney for Anaya said a written complaint against Ivey-Soto will be filed with the Legislature for investigation. Attorney Levi Monagle declined to share the complaint, citing procedural restrictions.

Previous allegations of sexual misconduct by lawmakers in their interactions with female lobbyists in recent years prompted an overhaul of anti-harassment training and investigative procedures at the Legislature, with new standards for what constitutes harassment and outside oversight of some investigations.

So far in 2022, four complaints of misconduct have been filed against New Mexico legislators. Legislative Council Service Director Raúl Burciaga, lead attorney to the Legislature, said further information cannot be disclosed without a preliminary investigation and finding of probable cause.

Previously, former State Rep. Carl Trujillo lost the Democratic primary in 2018 after a lobbyist accused him of inappropriately touching and propositioning her — though the lobbyist later declined to testify in a legislative inquiry. Trujillo denied the accusations.

Lobbyist Vanessa Alarid said in 2017 that a former House lawmaker had offered to vote for bill in 2009 if she would have sex with him.

Anaya's letter describes encounters this year with Ivey-Soto over glasses of wine in his office and later at a restaurant to discuss legislation aimed at expanding voting access. She described Ivey-Soto's behavior as aggressive and disrespectful, including shouting and sexual innuendo.

“That is why I decided to speak about this publicly,” she wrote. “You have a pattern of sexually abusive behavior and abuse of your power as a legislator, and I want every women who has to work with you to know about your actions and hold you accountable.”

Ivey-Soto said he has “no idea” about references to harassment of other women, and that his encounters with Anaya were never sexual. Ivey-Soto acknowledged confronting Anaya about her joining in previous calls for him to resign for badgering a female legislator during a Senate floor debate in 2021.

“I feel like a conversation with me would have been appropriate before publicly calling for my resignation,” Ivey-Soto said, highlighting his activism on legislation aimed at protecting victims of domestic violence and ensuring their safe access to voting.

The senator said he keeps wine in his state Capitol office to “de-intensify” conversations.

Anaya in 2017 publicly accused Democratic gubernatorial contender Jeff Apodaca of trying to kiss her on the mouth at a whiffle ball game in Santa Fe that brought together staff from the Democratic Party and a labor union that employed her.

Apodaca's campaign said the accusations were false. There was no official vetting. Apodaca lost in a three-way primary.

[49ers CEO Jed York accused of violating Santa Clara’s lobbyist ordinance over 2026 World Cup ads](#) (Santa Clara, CA)

San Francisco 49ers CEO Jed York may have violated Santa Clara’s lobbyist ordinance after spending more than \$15,000 on Facebook ads without registering with the city as a lobbyist, city clerk Hosam Haggag said.

The ads, which came from a recently created Facebook page called Santa Clara Now, asked residents to tell the Santa Clara City Council to support bringing the 2026 FIFA World Cup to Levi’s Stadium. The stadium is publicly owned and governed by the Stadium Authority, which is composed of the mayor and council.

Clicking on the ad rerouted users to a website where they could send a form email to the council that asked them to vote yes on a resolution of support that would be a “critical step towards FIFA selecting us to host matches in 2026.” An ad disclosure at the bottom of the page stated it was paid for by York and affiliated entities, including the Forty Niners Football Company, LLC.

The council voted unanimously Tuesday night — with Vice Mayor Suds Jain absent — to support the resolution, but not before Haggag voiced concerns about York’s activities as an “expenditure lobbyist.”

Santa Clara passed its lobbyist law in 2016 and defines an expenditure lobbyist as an individual who spends more than \$5,000 influencing city business. While several members of the 49ers are registered lobbyists, York is not.

In an email, Haggag told this news organization the city was drafting a notice of violation for the CEO’s failure to register as a lobbyist. The city is asking York to “come into compliance” by registering as a lobbyist or file a lobbyist exemption form.

Haggag is also concerned the ads started rolling out as early as Feb. 13, “prior to there being any public knowledge of such a resolution coming forward to the council, and prior to any public agenda having been published.”

In a statement, 49ers spokesperson Rahul Chandhok accused Haggag of a “history of mudslinging at the behest of Mayor Gillmor.”

“The 49ers are already registered as lobbyists in the city of Santa Clara,” Chandhok said. “Our support for the FIFA resolution, which was approved unanimously by the council, was open and transparent. We take pride in connecting with community stakeholders, and we will continue to do our part to make civic engagement more accessible for all.”

The city and the 49ers have been engaged in several battles in the past over campaign dollars and allegations of dark money. In 2020, Haggag walked back comments he made about the 49ers after he claimed the team violated election law over late campaign filings and threatened to report them to the California Fair Political Practices Commission — the state’s political watchdog.

At the time, the city clerk did report the team to the watchdog organization over a separate charge, alleging they failed to file certain campaign finance disclosures. A decision has not been made by the FPPC on the case.

Despite enthusiasm by the entire council to bring the World Cup to the Mission City, other concerns still loom. FIFA officials [toured](#) Levi’s Stadium last fall as the organization considers which 16 cities in the United States, Mexico and Canada will host matches.

City Manager Deanna Santana, Mayor Lisa Gillmor and Councilmember Kathy Watanabe expressed concern at the meeting that the city was being left in the dark about the bidding process and over what they say are the 49ers' potential conflicts of interest in the matter.

49ers President Al Guido is the board president for the Bay Area Host Committee and submitted the bid, listing himself as the chairperson/president of the Forty Niners Stadium Management Company, according to Santana. The management company oversees non-NFL events, but Santana said the role Guido listed himself as doesn't exist.

"We have to be involved like we were with Super Bowl because somebody that needs to represent the city of Santa Clara and the Stadium Authority has to negotiate with the host committee and we can't have Al Guido negotiating with Al Guido so there's an issue there," Gillmor said.

The mayor wants to ensure Santa Clara is reimbursed for any expenses — a condition of a 2010 measure that protects the city's coffers by barring the use of funds on Stadium Authority maintenance and operating costs.

Despite the tour of Levi's Stadium last fall and June 30 deadline to ensure the city meets the FIFA conditions of hosting a World Cup match, the mayor and Watanabe wonder why they still haven't seen a bid document yet.

"I want to see the economy of Santa Clara grow," Watanabe said. "I want to see us get through this pandemic. I want to see us be economically sustainable. But I want to make sure we're doing it the right way."

The 49ers' Chandhok cast the issues raised by the mayor and Watanabe as the "same type of rhetoric that has driven businesses out of Santa Clara."

"The host committee structure is common throughout the nation and has delivered marquis events like Super Bowl 50 and the College Football National Championship Game to the Bay Area," he said.

