

Contact: Tom Diebert FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE HQ Phone: (209) 742-4100 3/27/2020

Fresno Phone: (559) 250-4847

## **RESPONSE TO FPPC FORM 700 COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), put out an updated press release (attached) regarding the filing deadline being extended an additional 60 days for the annual Form 700 filing which was originally due April 1, 2020.

In the release, the FPPC stated, "The FPPC still encourage filers to file when they can, as soon as they are able. Those who have access to an electronic Form 700 filing system are encouraged to take advantage of its use".

Rest assured, NetFile is set up with proactive measures for all our employees to work safely from their home offices. For the last couple of weeks our employees have been working remotely and we are 100% fully operational. We instituted working remotely during emergency situations several years ago due to our headquarters being located in an area prone to forest fires.

NetFile is a 100% hosted environment with our servers residing in a top tier colocation facility in the Bay Area of California. COVID-19 has not impacted our infrastructure or our ability to continue working at 100% capacity. Our clients can continue to reach out to us via normal channels (telephone, e-mail, fax, etc..) and our response time to these requests have not changed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those impacted by this deadly virus.

NetFile is a privately held corporation based in Mariposa, CA and was established in 1998. NetFile is the originator and leader in e-filing and administration systems for both Campaign Disclosure and Form 700 Statements of Economic Interests systems. All programming, sales, and support are based in the United States so all revenue supports local and state economies.

For more information contact Tom Diebert at (559) 250-4847 or <a href="mailto:diebert@netfile.com">diebert@netfile.com</a> .

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 26, 2020

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jay Wierenga, FPPC (916) 322-7761

## FPPC to extend Form 700 deadline due to COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Fair Political Practices Commission is allowing a 60-day extension until June 1, 2020 for those required to file a 2019 annual Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). This two-month extension means Form 700's that are normally due on April 1, 2020 will be accepted by the Commission as timely until June first. The extension will apply to all officials required to file in April pursuant to Commission Regulations 18723 and 18730. The Commission intends to formally ratify this extension at its April 2 special meeting.

"We recognize the unique and serious nature of this pandemic and its effects on the public, as well as the work and effort now demanded of public officials around the State," said FPPC Chair Richard C. Miadich. "We don't want to place undue burdens on people when their and all of our primary efforts should be to help California get through this pandemic."

The FPPC still encourage filers to file when they can, as soon as they are able. Those who have access to an electronic Form 700 filing system are encouraged to take advantage of its use. If electronic filing is not available, filers can submit Form 700's by mail. Statements postmarked on or before the new, extended deadline will be considered filed on time.

"I'm proud of how Californians are responding to the calls by our public health and elected officials to do their part in helping us all get through the COVID-19 pandemic," said Miadich. "Form 700's are vital and necessary for transparency among our public officials and are still required. But these extenuating circumstances require flexibility, and that's what we're trying to achieve.

The Fair Political Practices Commission's advice telephone line is closed until further notice. The FPPC will, however, continue to timely respond to requests for advice received via email. If you have an advice question related to Form 700 filing, please send your question to <a href="mailto:Form700@fppc.ca.gov">Form700@fppc.ca.gov</a>. If you do not have access to email you may call 916-322-1052 and leave a message, however responses from that line may be delayed.