



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329

(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

January 21, 2015

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Mr. Paul Haas
Committee to Elect Paul Haas Nevada
County Superintendent of Schools 2014

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Jedidiah Watson
Committee to Elect Paul Haas Nevada
County Superintendent of Schools 2014

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 14/1210; Committee to Elect Paul Haas Nevada County Superintendent of Schools 2014; Paul Haas, Jedidiah Watson, Treasurer, Respondent(s)

Dear Messrs. Haas and Watson:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a sworn complaint filed against you that alleged you failed to report in-kind contributions on your campaign disclosure statements.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that you and your committee received in-kind contributions of elections signs, newspaper ads and radio ads from Marianne Slade-Troutman, but failed to timely report the benefit of those contributions on your campaign statements.

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

The Act requires that candidates and their committees file semi-annual and pre-election campaign statements at periodic intervals. (Section 84200/84200.7.) On those campaign statements, a candidate who receives a cumulative contribution of \$100 or more, including in-kind contributions, the campaign statement must report that person's full name, his or her street address, the person's employer and occupation, and the cumulative amount of contributions received. (Section 84211(f).)

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to report the value of print ads, newspaper ads and radio ads as non-monetary contributions received from Marianne Slade-Troutman. However, since you have amended your campaign statement to reflect the value of these non-monetary contributions, we are closing our file on this matter.

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Gary S. Winuk.

Gary S. Winuk, Chief
Enforcement Division

GSW/jt