



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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

(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

May 16, 2012

Democratic Women's Forum of San Francisco

REDACTED

Ms. Joan Simmons

Treasurer, Democratic Women's Forum of San Francisco

REDACTED

Re: Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 12/238; Democratic Women's Forum of San Francisco; and Joan Simmons, Treasurer

Dear Ms. Simmons:

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 non-filer referral from the Secretary of State that alleged the Democratic Women's Forum of San Francisco failed to electronically file a semi-annual campaign statement in violation of the Act.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that the committee failed to electronically file a semi-annual campaign statement for the period of July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 by the January 31, 2012 deadline.

The Act requires that committees file campaign statements at periodic intervals. In addition, when a committee raises or spends \$25,000 or more to support or oppose state candidates or state measures, the committee will trigger electronic filing. (Section 84605.)

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to electronically file the semi-annual statement by the deadline. You must immediately file this campaign statement electronically with the Secretary of

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.

State. However, because the committee has filed the paper format of the campaign statement for the period ending June 30, 2012, and the committee does not have an enforcement history, we are closing this matter with a warning letter.

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.

You are obligated to continue filing campaign statements until you officially terminate your committee. If your committee is no longer active, you may want to terminate your committee at this time as well. Failure to do so is a violation of the Act. Please be advised that after every filing deadline, your filing officer will refer all non-filers to the Enforcement Division. Any future failure to file your campaign statements will automatically be brought to our attention.

Although the FPPC is not seeking a penalty in the current matter, you are still responsible for any late filing fees assessed by your filing officer. (Section 91013.)

The FPPC publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act. If you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the FPPC's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772. Please also visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact Teri Rindahl at (916) 327-2018, with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Gary S. Winuk, Chief
Enforcement Division

GSW/tr