



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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July 20, 2009

Chuck Levin
P. O. Box 241870
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. I-09-153

Dear Mr. Levin:

This letter is in response to your request for advice regarding the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ Because your question seeks general guidance and does not reference any specific proceedings, we are treating your request as one for informal assistance.² In addition, we are only advising as to State law contained in the Act.

QUESTION³

What is the time limit in which the Campaign for Los Angeles to Support Paul Koretz for Council 2009 (ID #1317746) must retire its debt and accrued expenses?

CONCLUSION

The Act does not impose a time period on local campaign committees to retire debt. However, you should check with your local filing officer, the Los Angeles Ethics Commission, regarding local restrictions.

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.

² Informal assistance does not provide the requestor with the immunity provided by an opinion or formal written advice. (Section 83114; Regulation 18329(c) (3).)

³ In your letter dated June 1, 2009, you posed a second question concerning what new relationship you may have with city council candidate, Paul Koretz, after the election. In your subsequent letter dated June 14, 2009, this question was withdrawn.

FACTS

The Campaign for Los Angeles to Support Paul Koretz for Council 2009 (ID #1317746) has accrued expenses and debt from the May 19, 2009 election. As the treasurer and executive director for this committee, you are inquiring whether there is any time limit in which to retire the debt.

ANALYSIS

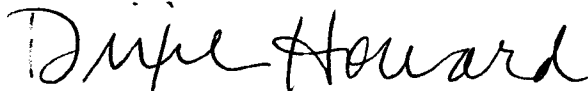
Under the Act, candidates and committees must file periodic statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made in connection with election activities, including ongoing disclosure of outstanding loans and accrued expenses. (Section 84100, et seq.) While the Act contains reporting obligations for outstanding loans and accrued expenses, as well as disclosure of contributions received to retire debt, there is no provision in the Act that imposes a time limit on local primarily formed committees to retire debt. However, you should consult with your local filing officer concerning local restrictions on debt retirement. The responsibility for interpreting and enforcing local campaign ordinances rests with your local filing officer, the Los Angeles Ethics Commission.

Information on state imposed reporting obligations for local primarily formed committees to support candidates is contained in FPPC Campaign Disclosure Manual 2, which can be found on the Fair Political Practices Commission's website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

If you have other questions on this matter, please contact me at (916) 322-5660.

Sincerely,

Scott Hallabrin
General Counsel



By: Dixie Howard
Assistant Division Chief
Technical Assistance Division

DH:jgl