



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
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April 24, 2024

Austin Smith
Elections Specialist III
San Mateo County Elections Office
40 Tower Road San Mateo, CA 94402

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-24-042

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter responds to your request for advice on behalf of San Mateo County regarding the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹

QUESTION

May the committees involved in the County’s July 23, 2024 election combine the semi-annual statement with the second pre-election statement due on July 11, 2024?

CONCLUSION

In connection with the July 23, 2024 election, committees may use a filing schedule that combines the semi-annual campaign statement with the second pre-election statement. The combined statement will be due on July 11, 2024, covering the period June 9, 2024, through July 6, 2024.

ANALYSIS

During an election, candidates and committees involved in the election are required to file two pre-election campaign statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made in connection with that election. These pre-election campaign statements are generally filed 40 days before the election and again 12 days before the election. (Section 84200.8.) Semi-annual statements are filed January 31 and July 31, respectively. (Section 84200.)

The County of San Mateo is holding a special recall election on July 23, 2024, in which voters will consider the questions of whether to recall two members of the San Mateo City Council. The first pre-election statement is due on June 13, 2024, and covers the reporting period of January

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 18104 through 18998 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.

1 through June 8. The first semi-annual report for 2024, covering the period June 9 through June 30, is due on July 31, 2024. The second pre-election statement filed in connection with this election would then cover the period of July 1 through July 6, and would be due on July 11, 2024, before the deadline for the semi-annual statement.

There is a mechanism in the Act that permits the combining of statements when an overlapping reporting period occurs or the filing of the semi-annual statement would be an additional, unnecessary filing to the two pre-election statements. (Section 84205.) It appears that the combining the second pre-election statement with the semi-annual statement would be appropriate for the County's July 23, 2024 election.

Accordingly, committees primarily formed to support or oppose the recall measures on the July 23, 2024 ballot may combine the semi-annual statement with the second pre-election statement. The date for filing this combined statement is July 11, 2024, the date on which the second pre-election statement is due. A campaign statement filing schedule that outlines the due dates for filing statements is enclosed for your convenience.

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

Sincerely,

Dave Bainbridge
General Counsel



By: Toren Lewis
Counsel, Legal Division

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