



March 6, 2020

Democratic Socialists of America, San Francisco Chapter (Electoral Fund)  
Aaron Commons, Treasurer  
Via email: [REDACTED]

**Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2020-00069; Democratic Socialists of America, San Francisco Chapter (Electoral Fund)**

Dear Committee and Mr. Commons:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).<sup>1</sup> This letter is in response to a referral from the Secretary of State alleging that you and the Committee failed to file the semi-annual campaign statement for period covering January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. The Enforcement Division has completed its investigation and found that you and the Committee did not timely file the semi-annual campaign statement for the period covering January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, by the July 31, 2019 due date.

The Act requires committees to file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the period ending December 31.<sup>2</sup> The obligation to file semi-annual statements continues until the treasurer terminates the committee. Additionally, the Act requires state committees that reach the electronic filing threshold to file statements in both paper and electronic format.<sup>3</sup>

You violated the Act because you failed to file the semi-annual campaign statement by the July 31, 2019 deadline, despite remaining an open committee. But the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine because you and the Committee filed the missing statement immediately after you were contacted by the Enforcement Division, there was no activity during the reporting period, and you have no prior Enforcement history.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code.

<sup>2</sup> Section 84200.

<sup>3</sup> Section 84605(a)(2).

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 Enforcement Division case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. The Commission has adopted Regulation 18360.1 to authorize the Enforcement Division to issue warning letters to conclude cases in specified circumstances. 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 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 Enforcement Division 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 Commission's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Please feel free to contact Tara Stock at [tstock@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:tstock@fppc.ca.gov) with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Galena West  
Chief, Enforcement Division

GW:ts

cc: Secretary of State