
Public Comment for an Item not on the Agenda for March 2026 Commission Meeting - March 19, 2026 10:00 AM PDT

From Christopher Buttner [REDACTED]
Date Tue 3/17/2026 8:50 PM
To CommAsst <CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov>; Davina Vo <davo@fppc.ca.gov>

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

State of California
Fair Political Practices Commission
1102 Q St. Suite 3050,
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: FPPC Commissioners

Subject: Request for an Expedited Conclusion and Case Determination of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Enforcement Division ‘Campaign Non-Filer’ Investigation in the Matter of “Stopper for Supervisor District 5 2018 and Benjamin Stopper Case No: 2025-00042,” in Consideration of Twelve (12) FPPC Probable Cause Findings on July 21, 2025

March 17, 2026

Dear Chairman Silver and Commissioners:

In the Matter of “**Stopper for Supervisor District 5 2018 and Benjamin Stopper, Case No: 2025-00042,**” this commission-initiated complaint was opened by the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Enforcement Division on January 8, 2025 precipitated by my December 26, 2024 citizen-initiated complaint **COM-09092024-02978.**

The FPPC identified twelve (12) probable cause findings on July 21, 2025 concerning respondents **“Stopper for Supervisor District 5 2018 (“Committee”) and Benjamin Stopper (“Stopper”)”** and it was documented that these twelve (12) probable cause findings represented presumed violations of the California Political Reform Act by Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper:

Rationale for Expedited Conclusion and Case Determination

On March 6, 2026, Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper filed FPPC forms 470 and 501 with the Calaveras County Elections Office, declaring his intention to seek re-election for a third consecutive term as Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor.

<https://public.netfile.com/pub2/AllFilingsByCandidate.aspx?id=213162035&candidate=Benjamin+Stopper&aid=CLVS>

On March 6, 2026, the Calaveras County Elections Office published its “Qualified Candidate List” for the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary, where you will find Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper listed.

https://elections.calaverasgov.us/Portals/Elections/Documents/Candidates/Current%20Candidate%20Lists/cfmcfmr009_nominationlist.pdf

There has been local controversy in the last months concerning Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper’s supervisory district of domicile, and there have been unsubstantiated, but credible, rumblings in the community that Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper had taken up residence for an extended period of time in a supervisory district other than the one he was elected to represent.

Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper is currently serving as the 2026 Calaveras County Board of Supervisors Chair, and is running for re-

election in supervisory district 5, so the question circulating in the community concerning Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper's supervisory district of domicile are both relevant and timely for the FPPC Enforcement Division to investigate and validate.

In consideration of there being only seventy seven (77) days remaining (as of this writing) until the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary, and in consideration of Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper seeking to retain his position as the Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor – a position Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper has held for two consecutive terms since January 2019 following Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper's election in 2018 – it is my assertion now that the expedited conclusion and determination of the FPPC Enforcement Division open and pending case against Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper, the recipient of an FPPC Enforcement Division Warning Letter on May 10, 2019 for being a 'Campaign Non-Filer,' [**Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2019-00576; Stopper for Supervisor District 5 2018, Benjamin Stopper**] serves the best interest of "minimizing harm to the community."

It is my continuing assertion that Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper has harmed the public's right to be informed about his potential conflicts of interest, has negatively impacted the public trust of the Calaveras County constituents he was elected to serve, rejected transparency by failing to file timely campaign finances, and has violated the integrity of the democratic process by undermining voter confidence.

It is further asserted that Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper's actions constitute a severe violation of the California Political Reform Act, and are not merely a technical breach, as these recurring actions represent a serious and substantive violation of the law.

The intent and seriousness of Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper's continued, unabated misconduct, after having received a warning letter from the FPPC Enforcement Division on May 19, 2019, is evident.

This misconduct clearly differentiates between inadvertent errors, and the appearance of a scofflaw's continuous sequence of deliberate actions to conceal campaign finance information or, alternatively demonstrates incapability of comprehending and meeting his basic campaign finance filing responsibilities.

https://www.fppc.ca.gov/siteassets/documents/enforcement_div/enf_letters/2019/6-10-19/benjamin-stopper---201900576.pdf

Absent an expedited conclusion and case determination of the FPPC Enforcement Division 'Campaign Non-Filer' investigation in the matter of "Stopper for Supervisor District 5 2018 and Benjamin Stopper, case 2025-00042," and in consideration of the twelve (12) FPPC probable cause findings on July 21, 2025, the outcome of the Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor election on June 2, 2026 has the potential to be severely compromised should Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper win re-election for a third consecutive term during the three-candidate Statewide Direct Primary election for Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor while this matter of twelve (12) probable cause findings lingers, thus depriving Calaveras County District 5 voters of the opportunity to make an informed choice between the recalcitrant Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper and his two challengers. It is anticipated that sufficient cause now exists for the FPPC Enforcement Division to levy substantial fines upon Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper, and to bar him from continuing to hold public office.

FPPC Probable Cause Findings

Count 1: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 by the July 31, 2020 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 2: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 by the February 1, 2021 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 3: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 by the August 2, 2021 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 4: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 by the January 31, 2022 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 5: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a preelection campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2022 through April 23, 2022 by the April 28, 2022 due date in violation of Government Code Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8.

Count 6: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a preelection campaign statement for the reporting period of April 24, 2022 through May 21, 2022 by the May 26, 2022 due date in violation of Government Code Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8.

Count 7: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of May 22, 2022 through June 30, 2022 by the August 1, 2022 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 8: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 by the January 31, 2023 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 9: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 by the July 31, 2023 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 10: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 by the January 31, 2024 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 11: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 by the July 31, 2024 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Count 12: Stopper and the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 by the January 31, 2025 due date, in violation of Government Code Section 84200.

Respectfully,



Christopher Buttner

