



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3000 • Sacramento, CA 95811

March 20, 2020

Musa Bassey
Michael McDonald
Ventura County Young Democrats
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2019-01183, Ventura County Young Democrats, Musa Bassey, and Michael McDonald

Dear Messrs. Bassey and McDonald:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a referral from the Secretary of State’s Office alleging that Ventura County Young Democrats (the “Committee”) failed to timely pay a \$50 annual fee and failed to pay a \$150 penalty.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you and the Committee failed to timely pay the \$50 annual fees and \$150 penalties for 2018 and 2019. Additionally, you and the Committee failed to timely file three semi-annual campaign statements.

The Act requires a committee to pay the \$50 annual fee no later than January 15th of each year. A committee that fails to timely pay the \$50 annual fee is subject to a penalty equal to three times the amount of the fee.² The Act also requires a committee to file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the reporting period ending on June 30, and no later than January 31 of the following year for the reporting period ending on December 31.³

Your actions violated the Act because you and the Committee failed to timely pay the \$50 annual fees for 2018 and 2019. Additionally, you and the Committee failed to timely file three semi-annual campaign statements for the reporting periods of July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with a warning letter because you paid the outstanding annual fees soon after being contacted by the Enforcement

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 84101.5.

³ Section 84200, subd. (a).

Division. You also filed the required semi-annual campaign statement and reported no financial activity.

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.

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.

If you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the Commission's Toll-Free Advice Line at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact Dominika Wojenska at dwojenska@fppc.ca.gov or (916) 322-2043 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galena West".

Galena West, Chief
Enforcement Division

GW/dw

cc: Secretary of State