



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

September 8, 2022

Inland Counties Stonewall Democrats
David Howe, Treasurer



Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2022-00492; Inland Counties Stonewall Democrats; David Howe

Dear Inland Counties Stonewall Democrats & Mr. Howe,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ As you are aware, the Enforcement Division received a referral from the County of San Bernardino alleging that you failed to timely file the semi-annual campaign statements for the calendar year 2021.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you failed to file the semi-annual campaign statements for the reporting periods of: January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, by the July 31, 2021 deadline; July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, by the January 31, 2022 deadline; and January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 by the July 31, 2022 deadline.

The Act requires committees to file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the period ending December 31.² In addition, depending on the committee’s activity in connection with an election, the committee may also be required to file two pre-election campaign statements prior to the applicable election.³ The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the treasurer terminates the committee.

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to timely file the above referenced semi-annual campaign statements by the applicable deadlines. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine because: the missing campaign statements were filed immediately after you were 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 84200.

³ Section 84200.5.

Division; minimal activity was disclosed on the campaign statements; and you do not have a prior Enforcement history.

Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this matter without a fine, your filing officer, the County of San Bernardino, may assess late filing penalties.

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. 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. 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 Ginny Brown at 916-322-8064 or gbrown@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Brereton

Angela J. Brereton, Chief
Enforcement Division

AJB:gab

cc: Communications.ROV@rov.sbcounty.gov