



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

November 28, 2022

Cindy Hendrickson for Judge 2022  
Cindy Hendrickson, Candidate  
Sonia Hidalgo, Treasurer  
[REDACTED]

**Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2018-00642; Cindy Hendrickson for Judge 2022, Cindy Hendrickson, and Sonia Hidalgo**

Dear Cindy Hendrickson and Sonia Hidalgo:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).<sup>1</sup> This letter is in response to a complaint alleging the Cindy Hendrickson for Judge 2022 (the “Committee”) failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement by the April 26, 2018 due date. The Enforcement Division has completed its investigation and determined that the Committee failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement electronically with the Secretary of State by the April 26, 2018 due date.

The Act requires all candidates appearing on the ballot to be voted on at the next election and their controlled committees to file pre-election campaign statements.<sup>2</sup> The first pre-election campaign statement, for the period ending 45 days before the election, must be filed no later than 40 days before the election.<sup>3</sup> The second pre-election campaign statements, for the period ending 17 days before the election, must be filed no later than 12 days before the election.<sup>4</sup>

Superior Court candidates and their controlled committees must file campaign statements electronically with the Secretary of State provided that the total cumulative amount of contributions received or expenditures made is \$25,000 or more.<sup>5</sup> Committees and other persons that are not required to file electronically may do so voluntarily.<sup>6</sup> If a committee begins to voluntarily file campaign statements electronically, then that committee must file all subsequent

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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. 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.

<sup>2</sup> Section 84200.5, subd. (a).

<sup>3</sup> Section 84200.8, subd. (a).

<sup>4</sup> Section 84200.8, subd. (b).

<sup>5</sup> Section 84605, subd. (a)(1).

<sup>6</sup> Section 84605, subd. (c).

statements electronically.<sup>7</sup> In addition to filing campaign statements electronically, a committee must continue to file a paper copy of the campaign statements with the Secretary of State.<sup>8</sup>

The Committee violated the Act by failing to timely file the pre-election campaign statement electronically with the Secretary of State, for the reporting period of January 1, 2018 to April 21, 2018, by the April 26, 2018 due date. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter because the violations resulted in minimal public harm. The statement was timely filed in paper format, the statement was filed electronically four days late prior to receiving contact from the Enforcement Division and prior to the relevant election. Further, the Committee has since terminated and has no prior history of violating the Act.

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. 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 yourselves 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 their obligations, please call the Commission's Toll-Free Advice Line at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov). Please feel free to contact me at [JRinehart@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:JRinehart@fppc.ca.gov) or (916) 323-6302 (voicemail) with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

*Jenna Rinehart*

Jenna C. Rinehart,  
Commission Counsel  
Enforcement Division

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<sup>7</sup> Section 84605, subd. (d).

<sup>8</sup> Section 84215, subd. (a).