



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811

August 30, 2023

Lauren Johnson-Norris

Lauren Johnson-Norris for City Council 2018 and Lauren Johnson-Norris for City Council 2020



Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2023-00402: Lauren Johnson-Norris, Lauren Johnson-Norris for City Council 2018, and Lauren Johnson-Norris for City Council 2020

Dear Lauren Johnson-Norris:

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 an anonymous complaint against you and your committee Lauren Johnson-Norris for City Council 2018 (the “2018 Committee”), alleging that you received \$1,875 in surplus funds from the Lauren Johnson-Norris for City Council 2020 (the “2020 Committee”). The Enforcement Division found that you improperly received surplus funds.

The Act defines surplus funds as campaign funds under the control of a former candidate or elected officer 90 days after leaving an elective office or defeat of a candidate for elective office.² The Act requires surplus funds to be disclosed and only used for the following purposes: the payment of outstanding campaign debts or elected officer’s expenses, the repayment of contributions, donations to a bona fide charitable, educational, civic, religious, or similar tax-exempt, nonprofit organization.³

Upon review, the Enforcement Division determined that you violated the Act when the 2020 Committee received \$178 in surplus funds from the 2018 Committee. However, mitigating circumstances exist here: there was low amount of surplus funds, you were unsuccessful in both elections, you were a first-time candidate during the 2018 election, your committee has terminated, and you have no prior enforcement history. Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with the Enforcement Division Policy Directives formally adopted by the

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 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 89519, subd. (a).

³ Section 89519, subd. (b).

Commission on January 26, 2023, which requires the Enforcement Division to take all appropriate actions within their discretion to decrease the Division's annual carryover caseload, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter.⁴ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁵ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁶

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. Furthermore, the Enforcement Division expects you to file the appropriate campaign statements as they still require filing.

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 Alex Rose at arose@fppc.ca.gov or 916- 327-6358 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Alex J. Rose, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

⁴ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁵ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

⁶ See Regulation 18361.5, subd. (e)(3).