



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

February 16, 2023

Erik Ortega, Candidate
Committee to Elect Erik Ortega for IVC Trustee Area 7 2022
[REDACTED]

Claudia Carrasco, Treasurer
Committee to Elect Erik Ortega for IVC Trustee Area 7 2022
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2022-01046; Committee to Elect Erik Ortega for IVC Trustee Area 7 2022, Erik Ortega, and Claudia Carrasco

Dear Committee, Candidate, and Treasurer:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ As you are aware, in response to the Enforcement Division’s pre-election outreach program, we were made aware by the Imperial County Registrar of Voters that you failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement in connection with the November 8, 2022 election. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you failed to timely file the first pre-election campaign statement.

The Act requires candidate-controlled committees to file two pre-election campaign statements at specified times prior to the election in which the candidate will be on the ballot, as well as semiannual 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 The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the candidate or treasurer terminates the committee. Additionally, the Act requires candidate-controlled committees to file 24-Hour Contribution Reports if the committee receives a contribution(s) totaling \$1,000 or more from a single source during the 90 days preceding the applicable election or on the date of the election.³ A loan is considered a “contribution” under the Act.⁴

You violated the Act because you failed to file the first pre-election campaign statement by the September 29, 2022 deadline. But, for the following reasons, the Enforcement Division has

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 Sections 84200.5 and 84200

³ Sections 82036 and 84203

⁴ Section 82015

decided to close your case with a warning letter rather than a fine: You were referred as part of the proactive pre-election outreach program and you filed the pre-election campaign statement immediately after you were contacted by the Enforcement Division. Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this matter without a fine, your filing officer may assess late filing penalties. Finally, we note that separate violations were resolved via a streamline settlement approved at the February 16, 2023 Commission meeting.

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 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 Vanessa Greer at vgreer@fppc.ca.gov or 916-322-2043 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Burton

Christopher B. Burton, Acting Chief
Enforcement Division

CBB: vg