



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

February 17, 2023

Keith Wolaridge, individually and on behalf of Committee to Elect Keith Wolaridge for PBVUSD
Trustee 2018

Joanne Wolaridge, Treasurer
[REDACTED]

**Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2018-00964; Committee to Elect Keith Wolaridge for
PBVUSD Trustee 2018, Keith Wolaridge and Joanne Wolaridge**

Dear Committee, Keith Wolaridge, and Joanne Wolaridge,

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 efforts, we were made aware by Kern County that Committee to Elect Keith Wolaridge for PBVUSD Trustee 2018 (the Committee”) failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement in connection with the November 6, 2018 General Election.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the matter and found the candidate failed to timely file a Form 470 for the 2018 and 2022 calendar years, by their respective due dates and failed to timely file a Form 470 Supplement within 48 hours of receiving contributions or making expenditures totaling \$2,000 in 2018. Additionally, the Enforcement Division determined the Committee failed to timely file six semi-annual campaign statements occurring between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021, by their respective due dates and failed to timely report certain expenditures on applicable semiannual campaign statements.

A streamline stipulation was previously approved for two counts of failing to timely and accurately report expenditures. The remaining violations are being resolved with this warning letter, as detailed below.

A central purpose of the Act is to ensure voters are fully informed and improper practices are inhibited by requiring candidates and committees to disclose all contributions received and expenditures made throughout a campaign on timely filed campaign statements and reports.² 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 semi-

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

² See sections 81002, subd. (a); See Section 84200, *et seq.*

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 31.³ The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the candidate or treasurer terminates the committee.⁴

The Act permits candidates who do not plan to raise or spend more than \$2,000 during a calendar year to file an Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement Short Form ("Form 470") in place of all required pre-election campaign and semiannual campaign statements for the year.⁵ In order to avoid the obligation to file pre-election campaign statements, a candidate needs to file the Form 470 on or before the first pre-election campaign statement due date.

If a candidate or officeholder files the Form 470 for an election and thereafter received contributions or made expenditures totaling \$2,000 or more during the same calendar year to send written notification ("Form 470 Supplement") to the Secretary of State, the local filing officer, and each candidate for the same office within 48 hours of raising or spending \$2,000 or more.⁶

A streamline stipulation was previously approved for two counts of failing to timely and accurately report expenditures. The remaining violations are being resolved with this warning letter, as detailed below.

The Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with a warning letter rather than a fine for the following reasons: the Committee filed the outstanding campaign statements, with the exception of the Form 470 Supplement, six of the nine statements were post-election activity, there was minimal activity on the campaign statements and it was a small percentage of the overall activity, the Committee raised and spent a low amount, the candidate and treasurer were inexperienced with the requirements of the Act, the Committee is terminated and there is 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 anyone with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. If any of you wish to avail themselves of these proceedings by requesting the 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.

³ Sections 84200.5 and 84200.

⁴ Section 84214; Regulation 18404.

⁵ Section 84206; Regulation 18406.

⁶ *Ibid.*

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 me at 916-322-5772 or mnash@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Marissa Nash

Marissa Nash
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

CC: Kern County Registrar of Voters, shugarta@co.kern.ca.us