



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

March 9, 2023

Steven Seidenglanz
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter re: FPPC No. 2018-01102; Steven Seidenglanz

Dear Steven Seidenglanz:

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 sworn complaint from Bobby O’Reiley regarding multiple billboards with four candidates that did not contain any disclosures.

The Enforcement Division found that Steven Seidenglanz (“Seidenglanz”) qualified as an independent expenditure committee and failed to timely file an independent expenditure committee campaign statement for the reporting period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Furthermore, Seidenglanz failed to include “not authorized by” disclosures on two billboards.

The Act defines an independent expenditure committee as any person or combination of persons who directly or indirectly makes independent expenditures totaling one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in a calendar year.² “Late independent expenditure” means an independent expenditure that totals in the aggregate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more and is made for or against a specific candidate or measure involved in an election during the 90-day period preceding the date of the election or on the date of the election.³ Additionally, independent expenditure committees shall file 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, if they have made contributions or independent expenditures during the six-month period before the closing date of the statements.⁴ Finally, an advertisement supporting or opposing a candidate that is paid for by an independent expenditure shall include statements that it was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate and “paid for by” and the committee’s name.⁵

However, the Enforcement Division decided to close this case with a warning letter. Seidenglanz added “ad paid for by” disclosures prior to the election, Seidenglanz was inexperienced with the Act, and Seidenglanz had no prior violations. Therefore, the Enforcement Division decided to close this case as to these issues with a warning letter.

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 18109 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations.

² Section, subd. (b).

³ Section 82036.5.

⁴ Section 84200, subd. (b).

⁵ Sections 84506.5 and 84502.

Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with the Enforcement Division Policy Directives formally adopted by the 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.⁶ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁷ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁸

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.

Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, you are still required to file all outstanding campaign statements and reports and pay any late filing fees assessed by your filing officer. Please contact your filing officer, Butte County Elections at elections@buttecounty.net, for further information about your required filings. Any future non-filings may result in monetary penalties and this warning letter may be considered in any future enforcement actions.

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.

If you need forms, 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) 327-6358 or arose@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Alex J Rose

Alex J. Rose, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

⁶ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁷ Regulation 18360.1.

⁸ See Regulation 18361.5, subdivision (e)(3).