



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

August 23, 2022

Redlands Area Democratic Club

Gilda Gularte, Treasurer

Via email: Treasurer@redlandsareademocrats.org

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2022-00623; Redlands Area Democratic Club

Dear Committee and Ms. Gularte:

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 an anonymous complaint alleging that you violated the advertisement disclaimer provisions of the Act by failing to include a required disclaimer in a text message sent prior to the June 7, 2022 Primary Election.

Under the Act, a committee other than a candidate controlled committee shall not authorize or pay for any text message advertisement unless the text message includes the disclosure text "Paid for by" or "with" followed by either the name of the committee or a hyperlink to a webpage which includes those disclosures required by the Act.²

Your actions violated the Act by sending a text message before the 2022 Primary Election which did not include the words "Ad paid for by" or "with" preceding the hyperlink to the website with the relevant disclosures. However, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with a warning letter rather than a fine for the following reasons: you contacted the Commission's advice team and attempted to comply with the requirements of the Act; the committee's activity was relatively low related to the election; the text message included a hyperlink to a website which did include the proper disclosures; and you do not have a 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

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 Section 84504.7, subd. (b)(1)

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 Laura Mandler at lmandler@fppc.ca.gov or 916-322-7779 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Brereton

Angela J. Brereton, Chief
Enforcement Division

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