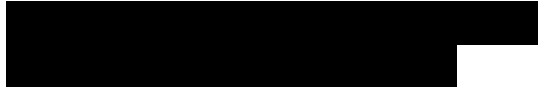




STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3000 • Sacramento, CA 95811

December 15, 2023



o/b/o California Democratic Socialists of America Political Action Committee

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 20-00940, California Democratic Socialists of America Political Action Committee, Renee Paradis, Cailyn Nagle

Dear Renee Paradis and Cailyn Nagle:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is sent in response to an anonymous complaint received via the agency AdWatch program concerning political advertising (video advocating on behalf of Proposition 15 posted on YouTube/social media) allegedly authorized and disseminated by your committee. Essentially, the complaint alleged the political advertisement failed to provide the appropriate disclosures mandated under the Act.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts of the case and found multiple violations. During its review, there were two distinct issues to evaluate: (a) disclaimer requirements on a video disseminated on social media and (b) Twitter/Instagram/website/social media disclaimer.

The Act requires video advertisements to include the words “Ad paid for by” followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed.² Furthermore, the Act requires the disclosure same disclosure as above to be fully visible on the cover or header photo when the profile, landing page, or similar location is viewed from any electronic device that is commonly used to view this form of electronic media, including, but not limited to, a computer screen, laptop, tablet, or smart phone.³

Upon review, the Enforcement Division determined that you violated the Act by failing include the proper disclosures on the YouTube video supporting Prop 15, your primary website (<https://www.californiadsa.org/>), and on various social media including Twitter and Instagram. However, mitigating circumstances exist here: you corrected the video prior to the relevant

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 84502.

³ Section 84504.6.

election, the website and social media pages were created after the election and corrected shortly after Enforcement contact, you were unsuccessful in the election, you raised and spent a low amount regarding the election, you are inexperienced with the Act, and you have no prior history with Enforcement.

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 me at 279-237-3752 or arose@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Alex J. Rose
Commission Counsel,
Enforcement Division