



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, CA 95811

December 14, 2023

Maria C. Mendez
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter re: Case No. 2023-00045; Maria C. Mendez

Dear Maria C. Mendez:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a referral from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office alleging that you failed to timely file a Candidate Statement of Economic Interests (“SEI”) in connection with your candidacy for the Whittier City School District Board in the November 8, 2022 General Election. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case and found that you failed to timely file a Candidate SEI.

Under the Act, a candidate for elective local office is required to file a Candidate SEI disclosing their investments, interests in real property, and income received during the immediately preceding 12 months.² The SEI must be filed no later than the deadline for the declaration of candidacy.³

You violated the Act by failing to file the Candidate SEI by October 25, 2022, the deadline to file the declaration of candidacy. However, since you were unsuccessful in the November 8, 2022 General Election, and you have no prior Enforcement history, the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with this warning letter rather than a fine. Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, you are still required to file the outstanding SEI and pay any late filing fees assessed by your filing officer, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office.

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

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014.

² Section 87302.3.

³ *Ibid.*

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 have questions, please contact Amber Rodriguez at arodriguez@fppc.ca.gov or (916) 322-1198.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Burton

Christopher B. Burton, Assistant Chief
Enforcement Division

CBB:ar