



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

January 24, 2024

Michael Matson
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter: Case No. 2023-00392; Michael Matson

Dear Michael Matson:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ The Enforcement Division received a sworn complaint regarding your failure to timely file a Candidate Statement of Economic Interests ("SEI"). The Enforcement Division completed its investigation and found that as a result of your position as a Candidate for the Newberry Community Service District Board of Directors, the Act required you to file a Candidate SEI and you violated the Act by failing to timely file your Candidate SEI by the August 12, 2022 deadline.

Under the Act, a candidate for elective office is required to file a Candidate SEI disclosing his or her investments, business positions, interests in real property and income received during the previous 12 months as outlined in the disclosure category for the position he or she is seeking.² The SEI must be filed no later than the deadline for the declaration of candidacy.³

You violated the Act by failing to timely file the Candidate SEI by August 12, 2022, the final filing date for the declaration of candidacy. But since you later filed your Candidate SEI and you have not had a prior violation of this section of the Act, the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with this warning letter instead of a fine.

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 may 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,

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 87302.3.

³ *Ibid.*

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 have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at CBurton@fppc.ca.gov or (916) 237-3769.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Burton

Christopher B. Burton
Assistant Chief of Enforcement
Fair Political Practices Commission