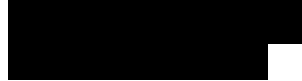




STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811

April 16, 2024

Manuel Rodriguez for Supervisor 2020  
Manuel Rodriguez, Candidate  
Irene Rodriguez, Treasurer



**Warning Letter: FPPC No. 2022-00936; Manuel Rodriguez for Supervisor 2020 and Manuel Rodriguez**

Dear Respondents,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).<sup>1</sup> This letter is in response to an audit from the Franchise Tax Board, finding that the candidate-controlled committee, Manuel Rodriguez for Supervisor 2020 (“the Committee”), impermissibly accepted cash contributions in connection with the March 3, 2020, Primary Election. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts of this case. Specifically, the Enforcement Division found the Committee impermissibly accepted \$600 in contributions in the form of money orders.

Under the Act, no contribution of one hundred dollars or more shall be made or received in cash.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, no contribution of one hundred dollars or more other than an in-kind contribution shall be made unless in the form of a written instrument containing the name of the donor and the name of the payee and drawn from the account of the donor or the intermediary.<sup>3</sup> The Committee violated the Act by accepting 3 separate contributions in the form of money orders totaling \$600. However, the Enforcement Division has determined mitigating circumstances exist here. The Franchise Tax Board found the Committee substantially complied with the requirements of the Act. Additionally, the evidence shows the Committee timely reported the contributions on the appropriate campaign statements, the cash contributions were a small percentage of the Committee’s overall activity, the Committee has a low level of sophistication, did not hire a professional treasurer, the Committee has no prior Enforcement history, and the Committee is now terminated.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014.

<sup>2</sup> Section 83400, subd. (a).

<sup>3</sup> Section 84300, subd. (c).

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, the Committee is still required to pay any late filing fees assessed by the filing officer. Please contact the Committee's filing officer for further information about 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 yourselves of these proceedings by requesting that this 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 have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (279) 237-5932 or [MCorona@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:MCorona@fppc.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

*Marissa Corona*

Marissa Corona  
Commission Counsel  
Enforcement Division