



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

March 27, 2024

Joanna Warrens for Butte County Supervisor 2024
Joanna Warrens
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2024-00392; Joanna Warrens for Butte County Supervisor 2024, Joanna Warrens

Dear Joanna Warrens and Committee:

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 had violated the campaign disclosure provisions of the Political Reform Act. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you and your committee failed to timely file the second pre-election statement (Form 460) and failed to timely file a 24-Hour Contribution Report (Form 497) in connection with the March 5, 2024, election.

The Act requires candidate-controlled committees to file two pre-election campaign statements at specified times prior to the election in which the candidate will be on the ballot. The first pre-election statement covering the duration of January 1, 2024, through January 20, 2024, was due on January 25, 2024, and the second pre-election statement covering the duration of January 21, 2024, through February 17, 2024, was due on February 22, 2024.

The Act also requires candidate-controlled committees that receive a contribution(s), including a loan(s), totaling \$1,000 or more from a single source within 90 days before the election, or on the date of the election, to file a 24-Hour Contribution Report (Form 497) within 24 hours of receiving the contribution.²

You violated the Act by failing to timely file the second pre-election campaign statement for the period covering January 21, 2024, through February 17, 2024, by the February 22, 2024, deadline. Additionally, you violated the Act by failing to file a 24-Hour Contribution Report within 24 hours of receiving a loan from the candidate’s personal funds totaling \$20,000 on January 8, 2024.

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 Sections 82036 and 84203.

However, for the following reasons, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine: The second pre-election statement was filed only one day late, the loan that triggered the Form 497 was from the candidate's personal funds, the loan was timely disclosed on the first pre-election statement, the Form 497 was filed before the relevant election, and there is no prior history of violating the Act. Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this matter without a fine, your filing officer, Butte County, may assess late filing penalties.

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 Shelby Pearce at spearce@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Burton

Christopher B. Burton, Assistant Chief
Enforcement Division

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