



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

December 6, 2024

Sent Via Email: [REDACTED]
Douglas Ridenour, Individually and
O/B/O Doug Ridenour for Mayor 2020

Duane Wolterstorff
O/B/O Doug Ridenour for Mayor 2020
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2021-00377; Doug Ridenour for Mayor 2020; Douglas Ridenour; and Duane Wolterstorff

Dear Douglas Ridenour, Duane Wolterstorff, and Doug Ridenour for Mayor 2020:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a sworn complaint regarding receiving contributions over local contribution limits, in violation of the contribution limit provisions of the Act.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. We found that Doug Ridenour for Mayor 2020 (“Committee”) received a \$10,000 contribution from MTC Distributing on January 22, 2021, in excess of the contribution limit of \$4,900 per election for candidates for elective city office in 2021.²

Your actions violated the Act because you accepted a contribution over the contribution limits for a candidate for elective city office in 2021. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with a warning letter rather than a fine because you: returned the portion of the contribution in excess of the contribution limit; reached out to the Commission for guidance; were unaware of the change in the law to extend to local contributions; the law changed about three weeks prior to the violation; and you have no prior history of violating this section of the Act.

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.

¹The 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 85301(d), effective January 1, 2021, and Regulation 18545.

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 themselves 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 questions regarding this letter, please contact me at bcastillo@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-3764.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Castillo

Bridgette Castillo
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division