



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

December 20, 2024

Jason Aula

Via email only: [REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC Case No. 2024-01061; Jason Aula

Dear Jason Aula 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, in response to the Enforcement Division’s pre-election outreach program, we were made aware by the Los Angeles County Recorder/County Clerk that you failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement in connection with the November 5, 2024 election. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that you failed to timely file a candidate’s statement of intention, statement of organization, and a first and second pre-election campaign statement.

The Act requires a candidate-controlled committee to file an original copy of the statement of organization (Form 410) within 10 days after the committee has qualified and to file two pre-election campaign statements prior to the applicable election in which the candidate is listed on the ballot.² Additionally, prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or loan, an individual who intends to be a local candidate shall file a statement of intention (Form 501) with the same filing officer and in the same location as the individual would file an original campaign statement.³

You violated the Act because you failed to timely file a statement of intention prior to the solicitation of any contribution received or expenditure made. Moreover, you failed to timely file a statement of organization within 10 days of qualifying as a committee. Finally, you failed to timely file your first and second pre-election campaign statements by the September 26, 2024 and October 19, 2024 respective deadlines. But, for the following reasons, the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with a warning letter rather than a fine: it is unclear that you met the monetary threshold to form a committee, you and the Committee do not have a prior enforcement history, and you were unsuccessful in the election. Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with the Enforcement Division Policy Directives formally adopted by the Commission on January 26, 2023, which requires the Enforcement Division to take all appropriate actions within

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 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Sections 84101, 84200.5 and 84206.

³ Section 85200.

their discretion to decrease the Division's annual carryover caseload, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter.⁴ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁵ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁶ Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this matter without a fine, your filing officer 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 Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.2 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 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 10 days from the date of this letter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at lcolumbel@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-5974.

Sincerely,

Laura Columbel

Laura Columbel
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

Cc: Filing Officer

⁴ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NSDocuments/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁵ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

⁶ See Regulation 18361.5, subd. (e)(3).