



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

December 9, 2024

Nikki Ellis

Via email: [REDACTED]

**Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2024-01137; Nikki Ellis**

Dear Nikki Ellis:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).<sup>1</sup> The Enforcement Division received an AdWatch complaint alleging that you failed to timely file campaign statements in connection with the November 5, 2024 General Election.

The Act provides that a candidate for state or local office must file a Form 501 for each election prior to soliciting or receiving any contributions or making expenditures from personal funds on behalf of their candidacy.<sup>2</sup> An individual who intends to run for state office must file the Form 501 with the Secretary of State.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, candidates who do not have an open committee and do not plan to raise or spend \$2,000 or more in connection with the applicable election file the Form 470 (Campaign Statement – Short Form) covering the entire calendar year by the deadline for the first pre-election campaign statement.<sup>4</sup>

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to file your Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) prior to making expenditures on behalf of your candidacy, and you failed to timely file your Candidate Campaign Statement Short Form (Form 470) by the September 26, 2024 deadline. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine because you were a first-time candidate with no prior experience with the Act, your election bid was unsuccessful, your Form 470 was filed late but before the November 5, 2024 General Election, and you have no prior history of violating 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

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<sup>1</sup> The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014 and all statutory references are to this code.

<sup>2</sup> Section 85200.

<sup>3</sup> Section 84215.

<sup>4</sup> Sections 84200.5 and 84206.

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 note that you are still required to file your outstanding Form 501 with the Secretary of State.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaleena Evans at 279-237-3754 or [jevans@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:jevans@fppc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Jaleena Evans*

Jaleena Evans, Attorney  
Enforcement Division