



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

December 24, 2024

Santa Clara Now

Via Email: admin@santaclaranow.org

Jed York

4949 Centennial Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

No Action Closure Letter: Jed York and Santa Clara Now; FPPC No. 2023-00808

Dear Jed York and Santa Clara Now:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to two sworn complaints alleging, in 2022, Jed York funded Santa Clara Now who purchased Facebook advertisements that advocated for or against candidates for the Santa Clara City Council and failed to timely file as a committee under the Act. After conducting our investigation and review of the case, we are closing this matter without further action as the allegation has been disproven.

The Act defines “committee” to include any person or combination of persons who directly or indirectly makes independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year.² “Expenditure” includes any monetary or nonmonetary payment made by any person that is used for communications that expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or candidates.³ A communication “expressly advocates” the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate if it contains express words of advocacy such as “vote for,” “elect,” “support,” “cast your ballot,” “vote against,” “defeat,” “reject,” “sign petitions for,” or, within 60 days before an election in which the candidate appears on the ballot, the communication otherwise refers to a clearly identified candidate so that the communication, taken as a whole, unambiguously urges a particular result in an election.⁴

The investigation found that Santa Clara Now posted 108 advertisements between February 14, 2022 and August 15, 2022. It was determined that none of these advertisements

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.

² Section 82013, subd. (b).

³ Section 82025, subd. (c).

⁴ Section 82025, subd. (c)(2).

contained express advocacy. Thus, the evidence shows that the persons responsible for Santa Clara Now did not qualify as a committee under the Act and so were not required to file as a committee. For these reasons, we are closing this matter without further action.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at JRinehart@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-5910.

Sincerely,

Jenna Rinehart

Jenna C. Rinehart

Senior Commission Counsel

Enforcement Division

cc: James Rowen jcroweblog@gmail.com