



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

July 19, 2024

Jess Ramirez
Officeholder



Gabriela Rodriguez
Treasurer



Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2022-00281, Committee to Re-Elect Jess J. Ramirez Oxnard Harbor District 2020, Jess Ramirez, Gabriel Rodriguez

Dear Committee, Jess Ramirez and Gabriel Rodriguez:

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 a filing officer referral alleging the Committee to Re-Elect Jess J. Ramirez Oxnard Harbor District 2020 (“the Committee”) failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period ending June 30, 2021, by the August 2, 2021 due date. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that the Committee failed to timely file semi-annual campaign statements for the reporting periods ending December 31, 2020, June 30, 2021, December 31, 2021, and December 31, 2022, by the applicable due dates.

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, as well as semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the period ending December 31.² The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the candidate or treasurer terminates the committee.³

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 Section 84200.5 and 84200.

³ Section 84214 and Regulation 18404.

Controlling candidates and committee treasures are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee.⁴

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to timely file the semi-annual campaign statements for the periods covering October 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020; January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021; July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 and July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. However, for the following reasons, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine: you filed the outstanding semi-annual campaign statements after being contacted by the Enforcement Division; there was minimal activity disclosed on the campaign statements; and you have no prior history of violating the Act. Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this matter without a fine, your filing officer, the County of Ventura, 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 me at 279-237-3766 or cfelkins@fppc.ca.gov with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Felkins

Michael C. Felkins,
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

⁴ Section 83116.5 and 91006.

cc: County of Ventura